



28 April 2009

TO MONTRÉAL SCHOOL BOARDS
FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Re: Information about swine flu for people in schools who are returning from regions affected¹ by this flu

Dear Sir or Madam:

Montréal's Direction de santé publique is receiving many questions from schools about students who have recently returned or will soon be returning from affected regions¹ (mostly Mexico).

Overview of the situation as of 28 April 2009

As of this date, there have been no confirmed cases of swine flu in the Montréal region. However, 26 cases of flu-like illness among travellers have been reported. There was only one case of suspected swine flu among the cases investigated, and the Laboratoire de santé publique du Québec subsequently ruled out the diagnosis. No cases of infectious severe respiratory illness have been reported.

Elsewhere in Québec, a suspected case of swine flu was reported but has also been ruled out. There are 13 confirmed cases in the rest of Canada: 4 in Nova Scotia, 3 in British Columbia, 2 in Alberta and 4 in Ontario. In the United States, there have been 64 confirmed cases of swine flu in five states (California, Texas, Kansas, Ohio and New York). In Mexico, at least 1900 people have been hospitalized, 830 of whom remain in hospital. There have been 152 deaths, the only ones in the world that can be attributed to swine flu. WHO considers that 26 of the Mexican cases have been confirmed.

Several other countries have reported confirmed or suspected cases.

For students returning from affected regions

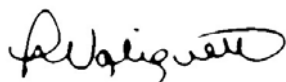
The Direction de santé publique recommends that people returning from regions affected by the flu adopt basic hygiene measures such as

- Frequent handwashing
- Avoiding sharing bottles and utensils
- Avoiding sharing personal hygiene items

¹ As of 28 April, these regions included Mexico, the United States (California, Texas, New York City, Ohio, Kansas), Canada (Nova Scotia, New-Brunswick).

Should **flu symptoms appear**² within **7 days** after returning from Mexico or another affected region,

- Go home or stay home;
- Call Info-Santé (811);
- See a doctor or go to emergency only if supplementary medical care is needed;
- If a medical consultation is needed, notify the clinic or emergency room before arriving. The doctor will inform the Direction de santé publique about the situation, if necessary. The DSP will contact you at home to assess the situation and give instructions.



Louise Valiquette MD
Acting Chief,
Health Protection Sector

Encl: Information for people with respiratory infections

² **Flu symptoms:**

Fever and cough that appear rapidly, as well as sore throat, muscle and joint pain, and fatigue.