



April 29, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

News about the Swine Flu permeates the media. Several years ago procedures to address the Bird Flu were developed. The administration in the Catholic schools and early childhood centers has been advised to review and, if necessary, to implement these procedures.

The Office of Catholic Schools and Centers continues ongoing communication with the Health Department. On your part, we would ask that you reinforce with your children the need to cover their mouth with a tissue when they sneeze or cough. The children have been taught to cough and/or sneeze into their shirt sleeve as a means of preventing the spread of germs. We will continue to reinforce the need of frequent hand washing as a preventative measure. For those students who participate in athletics, the coaches will be directed to remind team members not to share water bottles or towels with teammates.

Please know that the safety and health of your child(ren) is our first priority. The administration and faculty in each of the 52 schools and early childhood programs are aware of the potential dangers associated with the Swine Flu and will take the appropriate measures that guarantee your child's safety.

There is a need to remain calm and level headed in such times. The sharing of unsubstantiated information is inappropriate and counter productive. I encourage you to maintain open communication between your family and the school/center. It has been my experience that success is achieved when the parents and the school work collaboratively. This is one of those times.

Sincerely yours,

John L. Cummings, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools and Centers