

November 2009

Dear Boarder Parent/Guardian,

This letter is to inform you that some of our students have been experiencing influenza-like illness (ILI), with symptoms such as sore throats, cough and fever. To date, we have had approximately 25 boarders with such symptoms who have been treated by our school nurse, in close consultation with our school's doctor. All students are in various stages of recovery.

QMS has a plan in place should we encounter a high incidence of ILI symptoms and Residence has a comprehensive Care Plan for ill students. Students experiencing ILI will be contained in their room for rest or will be put in our isolation area if they have high fever (38.5c or above) along with other symptoms.

Our Housekeeping staff has increased the frequency of cleaning common areas and hard surfaces, such as door knobs, bathroom areas, and other commonly used student areas. We have also increased our Residence staff to assist in the care of all our students. Our school physician assesses our students daily and monitors their care and progress.

Students are being taught and reminded of hygiene etiquette, such as the importance of washing their hands and coughing into their sleeve. This will help contain the spread of illness. The Health Authority has indicated that the H1N1 vaccine will be available to the general population later this year (December). As soon as we are advised by our Health Authority as to when this vaccine is readily available we will be informing parents.

For further information please check our website, www.qms.bc.ca, then go to Parents, Boarding Life, Health Services, ILI (or click on this link, [ILI information](#)) which will be updated twice weekly on Monday and Thursday, and our local Health Authority website at <http://www.viha.ca/> or www.FightFlu.ca. If you have a specific question about your daughter, please contact our nurse directly at healthcentre@qms.bc.ca.

Kind Regards,



Celina Mason
Director of Residence and Student Support