



***Joint Statement of
The Manitoba School Boards Association and The Manitoba Teachers' Society on
H1N1 Influenza and Public Schools***

The Manitoba Teachers' Society and the Manitoba School Boards Association recognize the potential for a serious H1N1 flu outbreak in Manitoba this school year. School personnel continue to inform students about precautions that can prevent the spread of the H1N1 flu virus.

No one wants students or teachers to be absent from school, but individuals with symptoms must stay home. As always, parents are in the best position to determine if their children are well and able to attend school. School personnel, school division officials and parents must work together to help keep everyone healthy and our schools operating as normally as possible.

Manitoba's Chief Provincial Public Health Officer has stated that there is no evidence to suggest that closing schools would help stop the spread of the virus. The Manitoba Teachers' Society and the Manitoba School Boards Association believe it is in the best interests of parents and students for the two organizations to jointly assure Manitobans that:

- the health and safety of Manitoba's students and those who work in our public schools is a top priority.
- every effort will be made to ensure the continuity of programming for students in the event of a serious flu outbreak.
- reasonableness and flexibility should guide decisions with respect to continuing school programming, keeping schools open and redeploying personnel.

With a view to keeping Manitoba schools operating as normally as possible in the event of a serious H1N1 flu outbreak, the Manitoba School Boards Association and The Manitoba Teachers' Society will provide assistance at the local level to help resolve any questions that may arise relating to collective agreements in a timely and reasonable fashion.

Pat Isaak, President
The Manitoba Teachers' Society

Hugh Coburn, President
Manitoba School Boards Association