



OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Diocese of Arlington
The Chancery

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April 29, 2009

Dear Parents,

As you well know the swine-origin influenza has been identified in our country and the situation involving this disease is rapidly changing. Each day and almost each hour the news broadcasts have given updates on the current situation.

The US cases appear to be milder, have been less severe than those in Mexico. As of this hour, no cases have been reported in Virginia. Nevertheless, it behooves us to exercise good precautionary measures. Your local school will advise you on the steps being taken at the individual location and they will inform you if any of these actions require a response from you.

The teachers are asked to remind students of the common precautions that can be taken. Hand washing, disinfecting common surfaces, encouraging good hygienic practices can all assist in preventing the spread of germs. While these practices are not the total answer in a pandemic that is spread through airborne contact, good hygiene is still the best way we can all help to curtail the spread of germs.

In the event that the Center for Disease Control or the State Health Department requests that we close a school or group of schools, we will do so. We also urge parents not to send sick children to school.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. May God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,

Sister Bernadette McManigal, B.V.M.
Superintendent of Schools