

Swine Flu Concerns in San Diego as of April 28, 2009

In response both to our commitment to the health of our students and to the concerns of their families at this time, the following is provided for your information.

The County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services department sees “no need at this time to consider closing [San Diego] schools.” Rather, this will be done on a school-by-school basis, as directed by the CDC and only if needed. While many schools have chosen to close for a few days in Mexico, the Diocesan Schools Office and the Academy of Our Lady of Peace have been assured that this particular virus has multiple strains and that most of the cases in the U.S. have involved a strain that is mild in nature and rarely seen in humans. Prior to the current outbreak, there have been only twelve swine influenza infections reported in humans reported in the United States since 2005. Most of these individuals had direct or indirect contact with pigs.

Symptoms of the swine influenza virus infection are similar to those of seasonal influenza. These symptoms include: fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. There is currently no link between the cases in Mexico and the United States or among all of the U.S. cases.

The Academy of Our Lady of Peace is taking all of the precautions advised by both the Diocese and the City Health agencies:

1. Asking that students with any symptoms of the flu remain at home and away from school.
2. Allowing such students back onto school only once cleared by their health professional.
3. Immediately requiring parents to take students home who arrive at school ill or become ill during the school day.
4. Reminding students and staff to cover their coughs and to wash their hands frequently.
5. Call your health care professional or one of the following numbers with specific questions:
 - (a) Public Health Services hotline, (858) 715-2250;
 - (b) County Public Health Services, (619) 715-2250;
 - (c) County of San Diego website: www.sdcounty.ca.gov
 - (d) CDC Swine Flu Page: www.cdc.gov/flu/swine

The Academy will immediately inform the Department of Health and the Office of Schools should its attendance patterns change dramatically during the next few weeks. The well being of your daughter is our primary concern. Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance to you.