



## Camp IAWAH – H1:N1 Virus Update

### Dear Parents,

As many of you know, a number of Ontario summer camps have reported encounters with the Novel H1:N1 Virus. **There have been no H1:N1 cases detected or reported at any of our camp sessions this spring or summer.** We are taking precautions to ensure the safety and good health of our campers and staff, as the camp setting can be a possible source of transmission. Our medical staff supervisor has met with local public health officials, and we have received additional visits from the Department of Health and the Ministry of Labor.

The following precautions have been taken. Camp leaders and medical staff have been given orientation to the symptoms of the virus. At registration, we are screening incoming campers for symptoms as well as potential exposure to H1:N1. Hand sanitizers have been provided at each entrance to the dining area; campers and staff are required to use this sanitizer before meals. Good personal hygiene (including regular hand-washing) is being encouraged in all of our programs. Rigorous cleaning of all bathrooms, cabins, dining facilities and common areas is part of our regular daily routine. Attention to detail in this area is of paramount importance.

### Here are some additional suggestions provided by the Department of Health:

#### What can campers do?

The single most important thing to prevent the spread of the influenza is good hand hygiene. That means regularly washing hands with soap and water and using alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially before eating and after touching the nose or mouth. Practice good cough etiquette: Cough or sneeze into a sleeve, not into hands. Do not share food, utensils, toothbrushes, toothpaste, face cloths or any other items that come into contact with the mouth or nose.

#### What are camps doing?

Camps are following guidelines set out by the Ministry of Health to prevent and manage the spread of H1:N1 influenza, which include: Screening campers for influenza-like symptoms before they enter the camp or board a bus; placing hand washing facilities and alcohol-based sanitizer at multiple sites around camps; setting up designated health care areas to isolate sick campers from others; monitoring campers for symptoms of influenza-like illness; and asking staff to teach and model good infection control behavior to campers. All camps are required to notify public health officials if there is a case meeting the symptoms of H1:N1 flu.

Once again, at this time we do not have any suspected or confirmed cases of the H1:N1 flu virus. **Please inform the camp office or Registrar if your child has been exposed to the virus, or has been displaying one or more of the following symptoms: productive cough, high fever, severe headache, sore throat, muscle aches, joint pain, or weakness.**

If you have any further questions about the steps we are taking to ensure your child's well-being, or would like to view our communicable disease procedures in more detail, please do not hesitate to be in touch with us.

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