



Statement on H1N1, July 16, 2009

At MBC and Camp Widjiitiwin, the safety and well-being of our campers, program participants and staff is a top priority. In that respect, we are closely monitoring information about the Novel H1N1 influenza virus (swine flu) from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHTLC) and our local health unit.

We have been recently notified by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit of outbreaks of H1N1 in summer camps in their jurisdiction and that outbreaks may continue to occur in other camps over the summer. We take this matter very seriously. We are putting into place the following safeguards designed and recommended by the MOHTLC to protect our campers and staff:

Safeguards before camp (Camp Widjiitiwin)

1. Parents are required to keep their children at home and away from camp if their child develops these symptoms at home before camp. They can begin camp when they no longer have a fever and are feeling well enough to participate at camp
2. Camp staff and campers will be screened for influenza-like illness (ILI) before entering camp and routinely monitored for symptoms throughout their stay. Symptoms of ILI include fever and cough as well any other of the following symptoms of sore throat, muscle aches, joint pain, or weakness. Young children may also experience diarrhea and/or vomiting.
3. Camp staff and campers presenting with ILI symptoms on initial screening will be sent home so as not to expose any other staff or campers.

Safeguards during camp (Camp Widjiitiwin, Campers & Staff & MBC Staff)

4. Camp staff and campers who are experiencing new ILI symptoms while at camp will be separated from other campers/staff as quickly as possible. Ill campers may be sent home depending on the severity of the illness, and at the discretion of camp health care staff and parents.
5. All camp staff will promote cough and sneeze hygiene among staff and campers, i.e. sneezing into your elbow or a tissue.
6. All camp staff will promote and encourage frequent hand washing to prevent the spread of germs. Campers will be asked to wash their hands after bathroom use, prior to eating and after sneezing or coughing. Alcohol based hand sanitizer dispensers will be strategically placed throughout the camp site for use when soap and water is not immediately available.
7. Our on-site Paramedic is fully apprised of the situation and will be available to Conference guests to monitor for H1N1 Symptoms and make recommendations.

We will continue to monitor new developments from the MOHTLC and we will remain very proactive by following the aforementioned recommendations. We hope that parents can partner with us to help prevent and reduce the incidence of ILI at camp by making their child practice effective hand-washing and cough/sneeze behaviours at home. Should you have any further questions don't hesitate to contact your camp director.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our children and our camp healthy.