



Creating a Better World
Créer un monde meilleur



June 11, 2009

To: All Volunteers, Scouts Canada Staff and Parents

Re: Alert regarding Swine Influenza H1N1 Outbreak

The World Health Organization (WHO) has again raised the Alert Level for the Swine Influenza Virus H1N1 outbreak from Level 5 to Level 6 (the highest level).

This signals that a global pandemic is under way. However, even a Pandemic Level 6 can in turn be labelled “mild”, “medium” or “severe”.

Scouts Canada continues to closely monitor the information emanating from the WHO, The Public Health Agency of Canada and other Canadian health authorities. While you will have noticed a heightened degree of alarm raised throughout the media, please be assured that Scouts Canada will be in a position to implement our own mitigation measures should the need arise.

PLEASE NOTE WE ARE NOT AT THIS POINT YET.

Should schools and other public gathering places in your geographical area effectively be shut down, in keeping with our Duty of Care to our members we will commence the following measures:

- 1) All camping and other outdoor Scouting activities will be postponed
- 2) All regular weekly meetings will be cancelled.

Similar measures would likely be included in the action plans formulated by various government departments, municipal and regional governments and school boards.

Parents and leaders will be informed as soon as possible if these procedures are put in place. At that time, you would be instructed to contact your local council offices in your areas for further information. Information will also be available on your local council websites.

More information can be found on the WHO's web site at www.who.int or the Public Health Agency of Canada at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/index-eng.php> or 1-800-454-8302.

We hope this situation is resolved quickly. In the meantime, thanks for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call either Pierre Laurin, Director of Risk Management at (613) 224-5134 ext. 256 or Lisa Nowlan, Director of Communications at (613) 224-5134 ext. 271.

Sincerely

Rob Stewart
Executive Commissioner & CEO
Scouts Canada