



ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
467 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
BLOOMFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06002

Directive Regarding the H1N1 Virus

The following message comes from the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership:

“As faith formation classes begin, it is important that we remain vigilant regarding the H1N1 virus without creating panic regarding a pandemic. A key concern rises from the statement that ‘Illness rates will be highest among school-aged children (about 40 percent) and decline with age.’ There are common sense steps that can be taken; but most important is that decisions are based on correct information. The best website...is maintained by our government. Bookmark this site and view it on a regular basis: <http://www.flu.gov/index.html>... This website also covers issues related to early childhood programs. The most comprehensive source of information is ‘Preparing for the Flu (including 2009 H1N1Flu): A Communication Toolkit for Schools (K-12)’. You can download the PDF at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/toolkit/pdf/schoolflutoolkit.pdf>.

If your faith formation program is held in a building where regular day school classes are not held, you may wish to print several of the posters that are found towards the end of this resource and post them in appropriate locations. All schools have been provided with information to assist them in communicating with parents. It would be advisable to maintain contact with school officials on this issue”.

Information on these sites includes guidelines for informing parents of any situations, guidelines for parents, action steps for providers to prevent the spread of the Flu, practices regarding hygiene to avoid spreading the disease, policies for students and teachers who are ill, etc. You will also need to consider developing curricular take home packets for students who become ill and are unable to attend religious education sessions. It is also important that you follow guidelines suggested by your local city/town superintendent of schools and with the principal at your Catholic school.