

## News Release

**Date: October 26, 2009**

**Subject: CDSBEO Student's Death Linked to H1N1 Flu Virus**

**From: Bob Perreault, Communications Officer**

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### **CDSBEO Mourns Passing of Student - H1N1 Flu Virus Linked to Death**

**Kemptville, ON** – It is with great sadness that the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) reports that one of the Board's students has passed away. The Eastern Ontario Health Unit's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, has linked H1N1 to the death.

Dr. Roumeliotis and Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland, held a joint news conference at the CDSBEO's Kemptville Board Office on Monday, October 26, 2009.

Dr. Roumeliotis stated that the name of the victim is being withheld at the request of the family. The name of the school she attended is also being withheld.

"It is with deep sadness that we learned of the death of one of our students over the weekend," said Mr. Gartland. "On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Senior Administration and all staff of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to her family and friends. We will all continue to pray for them in the days, weeks and months ahead. These will be difficult times for all of us as we move forward. We would ask that you too keep the family in your prayers."

The Board is asking that the privacy of the family and of the school community be respected as they move through this difficult time of grief and mourning.

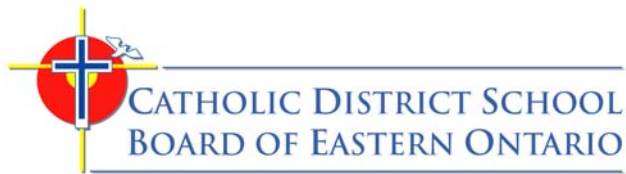
A crisis response team is in place at the school in question to provide support to staff and students and will remain in place for as long as they are required. "They are providing support in a number of ways, including assisting staff and students to cope with the tragic loss of someone they knew and cared about," said Mr. Gartland.

As H1N1 is a health issue, the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario takes its direction from the Medical Health Units. "I want to personally thank Dr. Roumeliotis for his direction and support," said Mr. Gartland.

***We walk in good company!***

Ronald Eamer  
Board Chair

Wm. J. Gartland  
Director of Education



All health related queries for the counties of Prescott, Russell, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry should be posed to the office of Dr. Roumeliotis at 613-933-1375 or 1-800-267-7120. Any queries for the counties of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville should be posed to Dr. Carter at 613-345-5685.

Mr. Gartland stated that the CDSBEO has taken a number of steps to prevent the spread of H1N1 in our schools, as directed by our local Health Units. These steps include:

- Watching for students with symptoms of H1N1
- Ensuring soap and water for hand washing is in place, as well as making alcohol-based hand sanitizer available for areas where soap and water are not available
- Frequently cleaning commonly touched surfaces and items
- Sharing information from the Regional Health Units with parents and guardians
- Posting the most current information we receive from the Medical Health Officers and/or Ministry of Health on our Board website ([www.cdsbeo.on.ca](http://www.cdsbeo.on.ca))

“As a community of faith and hope, we know that God’s love will sustain us during the difficult days ahead,” concluded Mr. Gartland.

Further media inquires should be directed to CDSBEO Communications Officer, Bob Perreault, at 613-258-7757 ext. 206 or 613-859-0678 (mobile).

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 39 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.

***We walk in good company!***

Ronald Eamer  
Board Chair

Wm. J. Gartland  
Director of Education