

DATE October 28, 2009

TO Unit Presidents
 Association Representatives

COPY Secretariat
 Provincial Executive
 OTF Governors

FROM Sheila Hill, Executive Assistant
 Contract Services Department

SUBJECT H1N1 – Pregnant Women and Individuals with Pre-existing Chronic
 Diseases

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Pandemic (H1N1) in Elementary and Secondary Schools states that while pregnant women in school settings and individuals with pre-existing chronic diseases are not at an increased risk of contracting H1N1, they appear to be at an increased risk of secondary complications.

That increased risk may result in heightened stress levels for individuals in those groups. Stress may itself give rise to an increased risk of secondary complications. Teachers complaining of symptoms of stress should be advised to contact their health care provider as soon as possible.

Should the health care provider recommend absence from work as a result of stress or any other medical condition, teachers should request a letter to that effect. This letter should be submitted to the Board immediately. If the Board presents any impediments to accessing sick leave benefits please bring to the attention of OECTA.

SH/mo'b