



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lester B. Pearson School Board to bus students attending Montreal-based schools to local vaccination centres

Dorval QC., November 18, 2009 - The Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB) is actively working on plans to transport its on-island elementary and high school students to H1N1 vaccination centres; children aged five to 19-years-old. This comes after a decision this morning between five Montreal school boards and health officials that will have all students on the Island of Montreal bused to designated vaccination centres to receive their vaccines against the H1N1 influenza virus.

LBPSB will be sending an information letter and consent form home to parents on Monday, November 23rd. Once completed consent forms are returned to schools, LBPSB's Transportation Services will make the necessary arrangements with local carriers and vaccination centres. Schools will then inform parents of their children's respective vaccination date using the Board's Community Messaging System. Transportation to vaccination centres will be during school hours, between 9:30 am and 1:30 pm. Only students, teachers and volunteers will be authorized to ride the buses. The Board's goal is to begin busing students by the 30th of November so that all students who wish to be vaccinated will be able to do so by the Christmas break.

This operation comes a week or so after a similar decision was made in the Montérégie region where the Board has eight schools. For these off-island schools, letters and consent forms have already been sent; busing to vaccination centres will take place on the 23rd, 24th, and 30th of November.

As stated by health and education officials this morning, this service is offered to all youth sector students in the province and is aimed to accommodate those who are unable to access a centre on their own. LBPSB is reminding parents that they can have their children vaccinated in designated vaccination centres, which are open from 8 am to 8 pm, 7 days a week, Monday through Sunday.

The Lester B. Pearson School Board is an English school board serving more than 32,000 students and staff in 60 schools, adult and vocational centres, an International Language Centre, and an Administrative Centre on a territory from Verdun westward to the Ontario border. The Lester B. Pearson School Board is recognized locally, nationally and internationally as a progressive and innovative public education institution pioneering a model of inclusive education, an acclaimed International Studies Program and as the first board in Quebec to pilot a universally-available half-day Kindergarten program for 4 year olds and a tri-lingual International full-day Pre-Kindergarten program.

For more information or to speak with someone directly, please contact:

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