

## **Scenario #1:**

A high school in a Vancouver Island First Nations community has closed its doors this week. Many students at the school were experiencing flu-like symptoms and parents and teachers agreed that the school should be closed to prevent a possible outbreak of the highly contagious H1N1 virus. There has only been one confirmed case of H1N1 and the student is now recovering well but the community does not want to take any chances. The school faculty, parents and members of the community will reevaluate the situation next week to see if the students are safe to come back to school and discuss what further preventative measures should be taken to ensure future health of the community. One of the teachers at the school is related to a writer at the Terrace Standard and informs them of the outbreak. Word gets out to other media that the Standard is investigating the story.

**Twitter:**

[LisaBrown @Laura12](#) I am so happy school is cancelled this week but I'm scared for all the kids who feel sick. Hope it's not H1N1.

[@MichelleC](#) at home today. School is closed and I don't feel well.

[PaulT @Sandy14](#) Half the kids at school are sick. I would have stayed home even if school wasn't cancelled. I do not want to catch H1N1.

**Facebook:**

Concerned parents with children who attend the Vancouver Island high school that closed have formed a Facebook group to keep each other updated on the school closure, additional cases of H1N1 and how they can prevent their kids from becoming infected. The group now has 789 members. The group is called "Parents for the fight against H1N1".

**Judy Hurley:** What can we do to protect our kids from H1N1? I think the closure of that Vancouver Island school was a smart move.

**Bob Right:** Most schools have hand sanitizer and precautionary videos shown. What more is there? We can't keep all the kids home.

**Donna Smith:** What about homeschooling to finish out the year?

**Media Inputs:**

Terrace Standard: Hi, can you please tell me why the local high school is closed? Has there been an H1N1 outbreak?

The North Shore News: We have been informed that the local high school has been closed due to several cases of the H1N1 virus. Can you confirm this?

**Community Calls:**

Can you please tell me if it's true there has been an H1N1 outbreak at our local high school?

Why has the high school closed? Are the kids sick?

**Twitter:**

[@Sarah45](#) I wonder when school is going to reopen?

[JohnS @James17](#) I heard Jimmy has H1N1. I played soccer with him last week. Do you think I should go to the doctor to get checked out just in case?

[@FredJones](#) I just heard that my cousin's high school on Vancouver Island is closed because there is an H1N1 outbreak.

[Sally45 @AliceT](#) The school my mom teaches at is closed because they think there will be an H1N1 outbreak. One kid has it for sure.

**Facebook:**

**Holly Brown:** I think the government should provide all school kids with H1N1 vaccines. They are always around other kids, they share drinks and aren't the best at covering their mouths. I think that's the best way we can protect them.

**Jordan Paulson:** I live on the other side of Vancouver Island. How many kids at that school were infected with H1N1 before they decided to close? There are a few suspected cases at my kids' school. Should I lobby for it to close too?

**Lou Matthews:** I heard there were 25 cases of H1N1 before it closed.

**Media:**

CBC Radio: Can you please give me the name of someone who can provide us with a comment on what led to the decision of the school closure?

The Vancouver Sun: I was told that your local high school closed due to the possible spread of H1N1. Can you give me any more information as to how many confirmed cases of H1N1 there are?

**Twitter:**

[BrianS @CoryM](#) What if there are a lot more kids infected with H1N1 than the school is telling us? I'm staying home all month!

[TrevorL @Travis B](#) Once we go back to school our school really needs hand sanitizer in every class room. What else can we do to prevent the spread of H1N1 in our community?

[@CBC1](#) Hi I am a journalist for CBC, Can anyone respond to me if they know how many cases of H1N1 were at the high school before it closed?

**Media:**

CBC News BC: Can you tell me when the high school will reopen and what precautionary measures the school plans to adopt in the future to prevent the further spread of H1N1?

The Metro: We were informed that there has been an H1N1 outbreak at the high school in your area. Have there been any deaths?

First Nations Drum: Has there been an outbreak of H1N1 in your community? Was the community prepared?

**Community Calls:**

My child was in class last week. Should I take her to the hospital just in case?

When is the school going to reopen?

Who can I phone to get more information about how to prevent the spread of H1N1?

**Stakeholders/Government/Healthcare Providers:**

The Vancouver Island Health Authority: How is the community dealing with the closure of the high school? Are there any additional confirmed cases of H1N1 on the reserve?

**Media:**

The Burnaby Now: Do you have a spokesperson who can comment on how the school closure is affecting your community?

CBC The National: How many people who attend this high school have confirmed cases of H1N1? How many people have suspected cases of H1N1?

Secwepemc News: Why has a school closed in your area? Are there confirmed cases of H1N1?

Nanaimo Daily News: It was picked up on Twitter that a high school has closed due to a high volume of students being sick. Can you comment as to whether these students are sick with H1N1?

**Community Calls:**

I saw a Facebook group saying that all the kids at the high school are sick. Is it Swine Flu?

I read on Twitter that several high school students were absent before the school decided to close. Do they all have H1N1?

I'm calling from Ontario. I read on Twitter there is an outbreak of H1N1 on Vancouver Island. Have you heard if my cousin William Smith is ok?

**Stakeholders/Government/Healthcare Providers:**

Indian and Northern affairs: We'd like to set up a press conference regarding this issue. Can you tell us who from your community will be able to speak?

**Media:**

Oak Bay News: It was brought to our attention that students have formed a Facebook group to discuss the closure of their school due the many students who were absent due to the flu. How many students were absent before the school decided to close?

Times Colonist: Can you comment on the Internet blog about your local high school being closed due to a possible H1N1 outbreak?

Saanich News: Can you provide the contact information of a parent of a child who attends the closed high school?

Victoria Standard: Can you confirm the rumors that the high school will not reopen until flu season is over and that students will do their work from home?

**Community Calls:**

I heard that H1N1 is spreading all over Vancouver Island. My Grandmother is old and I am scared she may have caught the virus. Can someone go check on Ruby White?

I heard one boy was confirmed with having H1N1. Is he ok now?

**Stakeholders/Government/Healthcare Providers:**

BC Centre for Disease control: We are sending someone to investigate the outbreak. What precautions have you taken so far to contain the virus?

### **CBC National interview (3 hours later):**

- Whose decision was it to close the high school? And why?
- If there were already signs of a potential outbreak, why wasn't the school closed earlier?
- When did you first start notifying the public about the possibility of an outbreak?
- How many cases have been reported? And how many are confirmed to be H1N1?
- What measures are being taken to ensure the virus doesn't spread?
- What is being done to educate the community, and its youths, about the prevention of H1N1?
- How do you respond to concerned parents forming a Facebook group critical of how H1N1 prevention is handled in your community?
- Has the government offered any support during this crisis?
- Since First Nations groups are at a high risk for contracting H1N1, what should the government be doing to ensure your safety?
- Do you feel that this crisis has prepared you for any future outbreaks?

## **Facts #1:**

- Many students have reported flu-like symptoms.
- The school has decided to close its doors for a week, in order to minimize a possible H1N1 outbreak.
- During the closure the school will be cleansed of any possible contaminants.
- Only one student has been confirmed with H1N1.

## **Facts #2:**

- The student has a mild case of H1N1 and is recovering well.
- There has been no information as to where that student may have contracted the virus.
- Tests are being run to see if any of the other students have been infected.
- At the end of the week, there will be discussions as to whether it's safe for the school to reopen.

### **Facts #3:**

- This is the first outbreak of H1N1 in the community.
- There is large elder population in the community, which can easily contract the virus.
- A member of the CDC is coming to the community to assess the situation.
- The Vancouver Island Health authority and the office of Indian and Northern affairs are both aware and informed of the situation

## **First Person Account: Telephone Transcript**

John: Hello, Eagle Mountain First Nations.

Susan: Hi, this is Susan Doe. I had a phone message asking about my boy.

John: Oh, yes. So how is Jimmy doing?

Susan: Well, he's at home right now. They released him from the hospital this morning. He slept through the night and his fever is way down, so they said he could come home if there was someone to watch over him.

John: I'm glad to hear he's feeling better. A lot of people were worried about him. So did the doctors say what the problem was?

Susan: Well, the tests confirmed it was the H1N1 flu virus. At first the doctors thought it might be just the regular flu or that Norwalk virus, but they weren't taking any chances and wanted to watch him for a few days.

John: So now you know for sure.

Susan: Yes, but it doesn't matter that much to me as long as he's better.

John: You're right, that's the most important thing. Is there anything the band office can do to help?

Susan: I guess we're o.k. for now. Did other kids get sick?

John: There was about a dozen last Thursday who had a fever and were throwing up, so we made the decision on Friday afternoon to close the school. The nurse took swabs to check for H1N1 but the last I heard half were feeling much better, four were still running a fever and the other two seemed to have a cold. Nobody else had to be admitted to the hospital.

Susan: Well this was pretty scary and I'm not sure it's over yet.

John: I hope the worst is over but we have to keep watching and be careful. So please let me know if anything changes, o.k.?

Susan: I'm still worried that he could get worse again, but thanks for your concern.

## **Scenario #2:**

Two sixth-grade students are missing from school today, and they aren't the type to be skipping school. Their friends haven't heard from them or their family, and because it's flu season, rumours are starting to spread about the two students having H1N1.

Schoolmates have been twittering, facebooking and talking to parents to see if anyone knows anything, and word is starting to spread. Parents are hearing the news from their children, and even a journalist from First Perspective has heard about it online. The First perspective blog tips off more media, and calls are flooding in.

**Twitter:**

[Lise41](#) [@Mike13](#) I heard Sally and Johnny weren't in class today because they have flu symptoms have you heard from either of them?

[Chase02](#) [@Lise41](#) [@Mike13](#) I'm in the same class as them both and Mrs. Powell made us listen to a video on H1N1 preparedness. Coincidence?

[Mike13](#) [@Chase02](#) I was just thinking the same thing! We don't even have hand sanitizer anywhere in our school or a nurse on staff.

[Lise41](#) [@Mike13](#) [@Chase02](#) Yet another reserve left out to dry by our incapable government. I hope Sally and Johnny are ok.

[First perspective](#) [@Chase02](#) Hi-I'm an aboriginal journalist for First Perspective online-do you think it is H1N1 that these students have? How long have they been missing?

[Chase02](#) [@First Perspective](#) I think it's H1N1. Johnny has been sick for a while

**Media:**

The First Perspective: What can you tell me about the two swine flu cases found at school today? I heard that there may be as many as ten cases at that school. Are both kids in critical condition in hospital?

The Turtle Island News: Hi, I read a blog post on First Perspective about as many of ten cases of H1N1 in your community. Can you comment on this? What are you doing to prepare for a pandemic?

CBC North: Can someone please comment about the school closure in your community? Is there an H1N1 pandemic?

**Community calls:**

Concerned parent: My son tells me that there is H1N1 at the school. Should I be keeping him home this week? He's had a cough lately. Do you think I should take him to the hospital?

## Facebook:

The student council of the school has a Facebook group where they network, post pictures from school activities and update other students about events happening at the school. While the conversation is happening on Twitter it spreads to this Facebook group and now reaches an audience of 376 students

**Tim:** What's going on? I heard the school is closing this week. Is it true?

**Lisa:** I heard that too. Do they have swine flu?

**Marnie:** I think its swine flu. There has been a lot of buzz around the school about it.

**Sarah:** I guess that is why we watched a video on it in class today

**Joe:** Check out this link from First Perspective online talking about an impending pandemic in our community because of all of this.

[www.firstperspective.com](http://www.firstperspective.com)

## Media:

**APTN:** We are looking to interview someone from your band office regarding the H1N1 pandemic in your community. Can you please get back to us as soon as possible and let us know when we can talk to someone? We have already arranged to send out a camera.

**CBC Early Edition:** Hello, we have heard that there have been two students with severe cases of H1N1 removed from school and a pending pandemic in your community. Is someone available for an interview first thing tomorrow morning to discuss how your community is handling this, what the status of the children is and how you feel your community is being helped by the provincial government?

## Community calls:

**Concerned parent:** I've heard about the H1N1 outbreak. Why didn't we know about this sooner? What are you doing to keep everyone safe?

## Facebook:

**Ashley:** Pandemic-this scares me. We don't even have a nurse on staff and the closest hospital is 45 minutes away. What are we going to do?

**Lisa:** I heard from my cousin that Sally's sister is pregnant and lives at home. Does this mean she is more susceptible to getting the H1N1 virus?

**Jenny:** yes pregnant women are at high risk. I hope she is out of the house

**Marnie:** I just heard from my uncle that there are at least ten confirmed cases of H1N1 in our community.

**Lisa:** I heard a bus of elders in the community is being taken to the hospital for flu like symptoms.

**Chris:** My grandmother is one of them. Is it really such a good idea to have all of them on a bus together?

**Lisa:** No it is not!

**Mike:** Yes the school is definitely closing tomorrow

## Media:

The Victoria Times Columnist: I have heard reports of a bus of elders being taken from your community to the local hospital. Are they all showing flu-like symptoms? We really need to talk to someone at your office about the H1N1 pandemic spreading throughout your community.

A-Channel: Hello, we are sending out a video journalist to report about the pandemic. Will there be a press conference? Have there been any fatalities? Can someone please get back to us as soon as possible to set up an interview so we can make our 4:00 pm deadline and run the story on the 5:00 pm news.

## Community calls:

Community elder: I don't want to get sick with H1N1. My health is already poor. What should I do?

**Media:**

Windspeaker News: Hello, news has spread about the sick children and elders in your community. Can someone at your office please call us to inform us of the status of the situation in your community? We would like to run a full story to increase awareness about the lack of resources being sent by the provincial government to Canada's reserves.

CBC Radio Canada: We have heard reports that a pregnant woman has become infected in your community and we are doing a story on H1N1 in pregnant women, how they are at higher risk and what measures should be taken once a pregnant woman is infected. Can someone from your office comment on this for our live radio program this evening at 6:00 pm? We would only need 3-4 minutes of your time.

**Community calls:**

Community member: I've heard the whole community could be infected. Is this true? How fast is this spreading?

Neighbour from nearby community: I've been hearing on the news that there's H1N1 around here. How did it start?

**Stakeholders/Government/Healthcare Providers:**

Indian and Northern affairs: What can you tell us about what's going on? What are you doing to contain the situation?

BC Centre for Disease Control: We've heard about the outbreak. Have you contained the problem? What resources do you have or need that we can provide?

BC Ministry of Health: Are you capable of handling this problem on your own, or do we need to bring in some government health care professionals?

## **CBC National interview (3 hours later)**

- How did all this begin?
- What precautions were taken once it was confirmed that it was H1N1?
- There have been varying reports of the number of cases of H1N1. Where did these come from, and what is the true number?
- When did the students first start showing signs of the flu, and why didn't anyone notice it earlier?
- Why was there no school nurse on staff, or any sanitization products?
- Was there any risk of the children infecting their family members, particularly Sally's pregnant sister?
- Why were a bus load of elders sent to hospital?
- Do you feel like the provincial government is doing enough to help with H1N1 prevention in communities like your own?
- What changes would you like to see to make things safer for your community?
- What is being done to prevent something like this in the future?

## **Facts #1:**

- Two students did not attend school today, and their parents called them in sick.
- One is a 12 year old boy; the other is an 11 year old girl.
- The kids have not been feeling well the last few days, and have been away from school for a week.
- Both kids have been admitted to the hospital by their parents.

## **Facts #2:**

- Both students are confirmed to have H1N1.
- The boy is in critical condition, the girl is stable.
- Several other community members have gone to the hospital with flu-like symptoms.
- The school does not have a nurse on staff, and students are saying there is no hand sanitizer either.

### **Facts #3:**

- No other student has been showing any signs of H1N1; However the school will be closing for a day for precautions.
- The boy in critical condition has some underlying health problems.
- The young girl's sister, who lives with her, is pregnant.
- The other community members that went to the hospital do not have H1N1.

## **First Person Account: Telephone Transcript**

John: Hello, Eagle Mountain First Nations.

Anna: Hi, this is Anna Doe. I had a phone message asking about my son.

John: Oh, yes. So how is Johnny doing?

Anna: Not so good. The doctors are keeping a close eye on him and right now they say he's in critical condition. They say it's definitely H1N1 and have kept him away from the other patients in the hospital.

John: I'm sorry to hear that. Do they think he'll be okay?

Anna: They say because of his diabetes he's an at risk patient for H1N1. They are treating him as best they can, and they think that as long as they keep close watch he should be okay.

John: That's good to hear.

Anna: Did other kids get sick?

John: There was a girl in the same class that has H1N1 as well, but the doctors say she should be okay. We have closed the school to make sure the virus doesn't spread and a few of the older community members were sent to the hospital as well after they started feeling sick.

Anna: Well this was pretty scary and I'm not sure it's over yet.

John: I hope the worst is over but we have to keep watching and be careful. So please let me know when you hear anything new, o.k.? And I'm really happy to hear that Jimmy is going to be all right.

Anna: I'm worried that he could get worse than he already is, but thanks for your concern.