

September 2009

Dear Broadoaks Parents:

Kathleen Pompey, Broadoaks' designated health, safety, and compliance officer, and I have been reviewing information from the national Center for Disease Control (CDC), as well as from the California departments of Child Care Licensing, Health, and Education with regard to disease prevention, especially the H1N1 virus. We have also been studying Whittier College's disease prevention policies and procedures. Our goal is to provide our families with a disease prevention plan early in the new school year before the anticipated start of the fall flu season.

Meanwhile, please assist us in doing all we can to prevent the spread of H1N1 and other diseases at Broadoaks. Please

1. Consult your pediatrician about disease prevention in the upcoming flu season at the earliest time available, preferably before school begins. Physicians may recommend flu vaccines.
2. Make sure your children eat a healthy diet, get plenty of sleep, and practice good hygiene, especially hand washing, at home. Avoid "over talking" H1N1 concerns so children will not become overly anxious.
3. Send your children to school only when they are in good health. Do not send them on days when you suspect that they might be "coming down with something" or on days when you give them medicines to control possible cold and flu symptoms.
4. Expect that staff members will conduct thorough visual health checks each morning and will only accept students who appear to be in good health. Teacher will not accept any student whose health appears to be in question.
5. Make plans to have your children picked up within 15 minutes should they become ill or display signs of illness at school. Make sure that names on your authorized pick-up list include at least two people who can get to school within 15 minutes during the school day. Broadoaks cannot provide sick child care.
6. Expect that the school will rigorously and consistently observe its policy that students must remain at home for *at least 24 hours* **after** all symptoms end, including fever, coughing, vomiting, and diarrhea.
7. Make plans for care of your children in case Broadoaks finds it advisable to close classes or the entire school.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Judith

Judith T. Wagner, Ph.D., Director
The Broadoaks School of Whittier College