

9/23/2009

To all our Tender Loving Care Families:

We have consulted with Virginia Mason's Infection Control, Infectious Disease and Pediatric departments to discuss our handling of H1N1 at TLC. The consensus is that H1N1 influenza is very similar to the typical influenza. From those we consulted with, they feel that H1N1 is prevalent now and the typical flu will manifest more toward the end of 2009. One difference is that the highest incidence of H1N1 cases is expected to be in children ages 6 months through 24 years.

We take children ages 12 months through 12 years so we know this may be a concern for you. The younger the child is the more immature their immune system is. We are cautioning parents of children under 3 years about the risks of placing your child in a program that serves ill children, however we will leave the final decision up to you.

In making your decision, we want to give you all the information possible. All of the children are together in the center. Due to the large number of mildly ill children that we are planning on serving, we will not be isolating any children at this time. We will continue our normal procedures to prevent cross contamination, which includes surface cleaning, thorough hand washing, using elbows instead of hands to cover coughs and sneezes, no sharing of food, etc.

This will be an ongoing concern for many of you throughout the winter months. Please know we will be vigilant in our health and safety practices, and always keep you updated on the latest information as it becomes available. If you have any questions or thoughts, please feel free to call TLC at 206.583.6521 or email me [Evajean.Giberson@vmmc.org](mailto:Evajean.Giberson@vmmc.org). Thank you for your cooperation and patience. We look forward to serving you.

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