

# Flu Season Information for Oncology/Hematology/BMT Families:

**September 24, 2009**

Here is some information we would like to share with you regarding the flu season.

- Good handwashing: This is one of the most important things you can do. This applies to everyone in your house.
- Try to stay away from people who have symptoms of a cold or the flu. If you cannot avoid contact with people with these symptoms, try to stay at least 2 metres (6 feet) away. Wash your hands.
- If you or your child has fever and cough, and sore throat or runny nose, you should call before coming to clinic. During regular clinic hours, call the oncology clinic at 604-875-2345 ext 7079 or your nurse directly.
- If your child is well but has cold symptoms such as cough, runny nose, and **no fever**, call your nurse or the oncology clinic during regular clinic hours (Monday to Friday 8 am to 6 pm), or the on-call doctor during the day on weekends. This call should be made **during the daytime** within 24 hours of symptoms appearing.
- As always, if your child has a fever or is unwell and you need to speak to a physician immediately, after hours, call the oncologist on call: 604-875-2161.

During this flu season, we may be calling you the day before your scheduled appointment to screen your child for flu symptoms. This will help us plan for your clinic visit. Although we may have to change some appointments, or your appointment may take longer than usual, your child will receive the care that he/she needs.

Please keep family members and visitors away from the clinic and hospital if they have any of the symptoms listed above. We prefer that siblings stay away from the clinic and hospital even if they are well. This is to reduce the chance that they may come into contact with the flu, or that they may spread it.

*Please see the following provincial website for continuing updates on pH1N1 influenza vaccine:*

[www.immunizebc.ca](http://www.immunizebc.ca)