

Watertown Children's Theatre Health Policy Regarding H1N1 Influenza Virus Precautions

The H1N1 virus, also known as the swine flu virus, is expected to be of continuing concern for the fall and winter seasons.

As we begin the fall theater season, please note that all children and staff with flu-like illness should stay away from classes and limit interactions with other people ("self-isolation") for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever. If your child has any of the symptoms below, we ask that you inform us, and keep him/her home from rehearsal until the symptoms subside or he/she is cleared by a doctor. Although our absence policy allows only 2 excused absences, any changes to a child's role due to additional or prolonged absences due to illness will be addressed on a case by case basis.

Symptoms include cough, runny nose, fever greater than 101 F, chills, aching muscles. Unfortunately, these symptoms overlap with most other viral respiratory illnesses like the common cold. Most children with mild flu symptoms do not need to visit their doctor, but we feel it is prudent to keep your child out of rehearsal if s/he is experiencing these symptoms, especially if there is a fever.

Children who have a medical condition that puts them at increased risk of severe illness from flu, are concerned about their illness, or develop severe symptoms such as shortness of breath, chest pain or pressure, or rapid breathing should seek medical attention.

Should children arrive for rehearsals/classes presenting with flu-like symptoms, parents will be contacted immediately to pick up their child. Again, parents should contact their child's physician if they are experiencing severe symptoms.

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