Responding to Illness

Yesterday Brock was sent home with a fever, runny nose, and a deep cough that seemed to wear him out. He did not come to your school-age program today. At 3:30 this afternoon, the phone rings. Brock's parents inform you that Brock has been diagnosed with whooping cough. Use your program's policies to answer the following questions.

1. Who must be informed of this situation?

2. What information must you and your program share?

3. How will you and your program share the information (flier, note, phone call, media)?

4. How will you and your program talk to families about the illness? Think about what you will say.
5. Are there any special populations who might need extra information (e.g., pregnant women, children with newborn siblings, children who live with elderly grandparents)?

6. Are immunizations a concern in this situation? If so, how will you and your program respond to children who are not immunized or under-immunized for the illness?

7. How will you and your program ensure Brock’s confidentiality?

8. When can Brock return to the program?

9. What will you do if you see the symptoms in other children? In yourself?