

H1N1 Influenza Information Update

Sept. 20, 2009

To the University Community,

It is likely that the University and surrounding community may see significant numbers of H1N1 influenza cases this fall and winter. Just like any other flu, most people who come down with the H1N1 flu recover without complications. The University has made detailed plans and preparations for dealing with an influenza outbreak. All of our strategies are based on recommendations from the [Centers for Disease Control](#), and the [NH Department of Health and Human Services](#). We will post updated information as needed to keep everyone informed.

Franklin Pierce University's Office of Health Services has seen 12 students with mild flu-like symptoms. These students went home to recuperate and 10 of these students have since recovered and returned to campus. We cannot confirm H1N1 as the State of New Hampshire does not test for it unless patients are hospitalized.

We are recommending that students and employees who have flu-like symptoms go home if possible and remain at home until they are without fever for 24 hours (with no fever reducing medication). If going home is not possible, the student and Health Services will make arrangements on an individual basis.

It is important for all faculty, staff and students to take the following flu/respiratory disease precautions to avoid contracting the flu:

- Avoid contact with ill persons
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze (The CDC advisory released this week recommends the use of a mask as a precautionary measure if you are actively coughing or ill.)
- Throw used tissues in the trash
- Do not share food, drink, or utensils
- Wash your hands with soap and water frequently—particularly after you sneeze—or use an alcohol-based hand gel

Classes and other activities at Franklin Pierce are proceeding normally. The Emergency Operations Response Team will monitor the campus situation and make recommendations regarding changes in or cancellations of campus activities on the basis of any flu outbreak. The President and Provost will make any decisions regarding the cancellation of classes. Any such decisions will be communicated broadly to faculty, students and staff through e-mail and other communications.

The Health Services Office is expecting to receive traditional flu shots next week and will make them available to students, faculty and staff immediately. The H1N1 vaccine has not been released but is expected beginning in October.

Students and parents who have questions may contact Lee Potter, Director of Health Services, at 603.899.4130.

Thank you for your efforts to keep all members of our community in good health. Although we can't eliminate the spread of this virus, our collective efforts can significantly minimize its reach and overall impact.

Sincerely,

Lee Potter RN, BSN, BC

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