

September 15, 2009

Gentlemen,

With reports that the H1N1 flu virus has been detected on nearly 75% of the nation's college campuses, it is only a matter of time before the illness makes its way to Wabash. To date we have had no cases of "swine flu." There is a "bug" going around that has impacted a few living units, but this has not proven to be the H1N1 virus. Nevertheless, the College is preparing for a probable outbreak and the appropriate responses when it arrives.

From the consultation with our College Medical Team and our Safety Committee's Emergency Planning group, we have developed the following list of action steps intended to reduce the impact of the virus at Wabash.

1. **Personal hygiene.** Personal hygiene is the single-most important preventative measure. Please be certain to keep your hands clean and away from your eyes, nose, and mouth; to cough into the crook of your elbow; to sneeze into tissues; and to keep common areas and equipment clean after use. Tissues, hand sanitizers, and disinfectant wipes will soon be found in classrooms and labs across the campus. Please use them, and follow the same precautions in your living units.
2. **Cleaning.** Campus services staff members are increasing the sanitizing of public areas, including classrooms and living units. Fraternity men should be diligent to keep their facilities clean, utilizing Charlie McCormick for guidance and, if necessary and possible, help in gaining access to the Custodial Staff.
3. **Vaccinations.** "Regular" or "seasonal" flu shots will be available on campus October 21, 22, and 28 from 8:00am -11am. H1N1 vaccines, we are told, will be available to our students at some future date. Students are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated for both the seasonal flu and H1N1. The College is a priority recipient of **both** vaccines, and the Student Health office will inform the community when sign-ups for the vaccines are available.
4. **Illness and Classroom Management.**
  - a. **Communication** — My office, to which Student Health, Housing, and Security offices report, will coordinate communications to our students. When the first case is confirmed, the campus will be immediately informed. A communication will then go out to students' families. Additional information will be posted on the College's website.
  - b. **Ill Student Management** — Students with flu symptoms are encouraged to contact the Health Center or, after hours, the St. Clare Medical Center as necessary. If a student is non-responsive, call 911 immediately; always err on the side of caution. Students determined to have the flu will either be encouraged to go home (where practical) or isolated from other students in

rooms designated by each fraternity and resident hall. Should the volume of ill students exceed those spaces, other locations across campus (such as the Hays home on Crawford Street) may be used.

- c. **Student-Faculty Interaction** — Students who are ill should *not* attend class and, as possible, should visit the Student Health Center. If the situation rises to a level of widespread impact on the student body, faculty will be asked to adjust class absence policies and to make provisions for allowing quizzes, tests, written work, and other course obligations to be made up in alternative ways. Accordingly, students should be certain not to miss any class without a valid reason or excuse. In other words, your ability to succeed in class and merit consideration for later leniency from faculty will greatly depend on your attendance record prior to getting the flu.
- i. This may become a most unusual situation whereby faculty may be called upon to conduct classes in unprecedented ways. Faculty members are preparing contingency class plans and will inform students about those, as well as the ways you will communicate with them and they with you. Be sure to monitor email to maximize your communication with your faculty.
  - ii. As for faculty illness, they, too, have been guided to not come to work or hold classes should they fall ill. We are all asked to err on the side of caution and exercise common sense to deal with this impending situation.

As we go through the semester (and next?), we will monitor the H1N1 presence and impact on our campus and in the wider Crawfordsville community. Students will exercise good judgment and common sense. Faculty will make their best professional judgments in regard to their courses and your successful completion of them. And we will take the appropriate institutional decisions as the situation demands.

We are all committed to working together to minimize the impact of this health scare on your education. Thank you for your continued good work to help in that effort.

Best wishes –

Mike Raters

Michael P. Raters  
Dean of Students  
Wabash College  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
765-361-6289