

September 29, 2009

Dear Wabash Faculty, Staff, and Students,

I am writing to report that two Wabash College students, both members of Sigma Chi fraternity, have been diagnosed with positive Influenza A. At this time, the Indiana State Department of Health suggests all positive Influenza A tests be treated as the H1N1 Influenza virus.

In accordance with the recommendations of the State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, these students have been sent home to receive more direct care from their parents. They will return to campus once they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. Bathrooms and public spaces in the fraternity house are in the process of being thoroughly cleaned at this time.

If you are a student and begin to show symptoms of the flu, it is important that you perform "self-isolation" and contact the Student Health Center immediately. Students who test positive for Influenza A will be sent home; those who are unable to return home for care will be kept in isolation within their living units. Members of the faculty and staff who show symptoms should contact their primary care provider as quickly as possible.

Since the beginning of school, we have made available on our website current information on the H1N1 virus, including a strong emphasis on how all of us can prevent the spread of the disease. ***Please take some time today to review the information***, which is available on the College's home page at www.wabash.edu.

All of us can play a role in preventing the spread of H1N1 on the Wabash campus. Please practice good hygiene habits such as thoroughly washing your hands with soap and warm water, covering sneezes with tissues, coughing into your elbow, and using hand sanitizer when using public facilities like computer labs and Allen Center fitness equipment.

The first cases of H1N1 became known approximately five months ago. Since that time, Wabash's campus physicians, Dr. John Roberts and Dr. Scott Douglas, along with the College Nurse, Carol Lamb, and members of the Safety Committee have been planning for a possible occurrence of the H1N1 virus on our campus. We are confident that we have the necessary resources and procedures in place to provide comfort and care to students who might become ill.

If you have questions, please contact Nurse Lamb in the Student Health Center at lambc@wabash.edu or by phoning (765) 361-6265.

Sincerely,

Patrick E. White
President