H1N1 Influenza Information Update – Nov. 20, 2009

To the University Community,

The University is reporting one documented case of H1N1 after testing four students with flu-like symptoms. The Center for Disease Control sent us a small amount of test kits to determine if H1N1 was present on campus. At this time, the CDC suggests all flu-like symptoms be treated as H1N1. All students and employees with flu-like symptoms are asked to go home to recuperate or to self-isolate on campus for at least 24 hours after their fever has subsided (with no fever reducing medication). At this time all students have recovered and returned to campus. Just like any other flu, most people who come down with the H1N1 flu recover without complications.

It is important for all faculty, staff and students to take the following flu/respiratory precautions.
• Avoid contact with ill persons.
• Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze (The CDC advisory released 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 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.

The Health Services Office is not expecting to receive H1N1 flu shots until after Thanksgiving. As soon as they do arrive, we will make them available to students with underlying medical problems as stated by CDC. Students, faculty and staff without medical problems will receive the vaccine when it is approved by the CDC. Parents who have questions may contact Lee Potter, Director of Health Services, at 603.899.4132.

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.

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Franklin Pierce University