

October 26, 2009

Dear Members of the Siena Community,

In response to your many questions and concerns I am providing you with the following update:

Current Status of Influenza:

- As of today, The Albany County Department of Health reports increased levels of Influenza-like illness (ILI) reported by health care providers, Emergency Departments, schools and colleges in Albany County and the Capital Region. In the last week, they have received reports of lab confirmed influenza A and Influenza 2009 H1N1 cases among Albany County residents.
- Nationally and in New York State, the H1N1 influenza virus continues to be the dominant flu virus circulating at this time.
- Siena College Health Service is seeing an increase in flu and flu like illness among it's student population. We have had positive flu culture results for both Influenza A and H1N1 on campus. We continue to obtain one flu culture specimen per week and submit it to the Wadsworth Laboratory for H1N1 serologic testing per direction from the NYSDOH in accordance with our Sentinel Provider participation.
- Students experiencing flu or flu-like illness are being placed on a 5 day Medical Leave. This is a college-wide policy which allows students who are too ill to attend classes and remain in the residence halls to go home to recover from their illness. Additionally, this policy is in place to reduce the spread of illness on campus. Students placed on a Medical leave will have their faculty notified of their absence and their return date. Faculty are in support of this policy and will be working with students to make up any missed work upon their return to campus.
- If you are a student experiencing the following flu or flu like symptoms: fever above 100, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue, you should contact Health Services to be placed on a medical leave. If this is during normal business hours, you may call 783-2554 and press 1 to speak with the nurse. If this is during the night, you can arrange for transportation home and contact Health Services via email.
- The College continues to monitor influenza activity on a daily basis. The College continues to operate under normal conditions.

Flu Vaccine Information

- There is a delay in receipt of the seasonal flu vaccine. A number of Flu vaccine clinics in the Capital Region had to be cancelled this week due to a shortage of the flu vaccine.
- The Siena College Seasonal Flu Vaccine Clinic is now scheduled for Thursday 11/12, 11am-5pm in the Sarazen Student Union. This is a walk-in clinic. The cost is \$30. Most insurances are accepted. Students may bill their student account.
- Nationwide distribution of the H1N1 flu vaccine is underway in all states, although it is being produced and distributed slower than predicted. Information regarding the availability of the H1N1 vaccine in our area will be provided to you as it becomes available to us.
- It cannot be stressed enough, vaccination offers the best protection against getting sick from influenza, both seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza.

Carrie Hogan, MS, ANP
Director of Health Service

*Siena College
515 Loudon Rd
Loudonville, NY 12211
Phone# (518)783-2554
Fax# (518)783-2961*