

H1N1 Academic Affairs Update Fall 2009

During summer 2009, the Siena College Emergency Planning Committee has been meeting and monitoring the Center for Disease Control (CDC), New York State Health Department, and other sources so to ensure an appropriate response by Siena as we return for Academic Year 2009 – 2010. In early August, all students and parents were mailed letters advising of basic guidelines and expectations, regarding students' personal planning requirements. Those letters and other relevant, updated information will continue to be posted at www.siena.edu/emergencyinfo.

Of most importance to all faculty members and administrators / staff personnel, within Academic Affairs, is the continuing need for all to remain vigilant for signs of H1N1 within our student population, as well as among employees, and particularly those with chronic health conditions. **The bottom line is – if YOU have flu / flu-like symptoms – stay home / away from class, work, etc; seek appropriate medical assistance; and report your absence to your supervisor / School Offices, as applicable. Regarding your students who have those symptoms, they should be directed to go to or call Health Services for triage. Given the potential numbers, there may be a longer delay than normal for faculty notification that a student is on medical leave because of flu.**

Finally, *we all need to be flexible in our approach to this unique situation – whether in our teaching assignments / expectations; staffing our offices; modifying events with large groups of people in one location; etc.* So, I ask YOU to discuss these issues among your colleagues now and plan for the possibility ...what if.... please do not hesitate to contact me or Joe Fitzgerald with questions regarding this matter.

The following general information is provided for your review and use:

- **H1N1 Symptoms:** Fever (over 100 degrees F); Headache; Tiredness; Cough; Sore Throat; Runny or Stuffy Nose; Body aches; Diarrhea and Vomiting.
- **Precautions:**
 - ✓ Cover your nose and mouth with tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue away in the trash after each use!
 - ✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing and sneezing.
 - ✓ Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
 - ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
 - ✓ The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is currently recommending the following:

“Stay home if you have flu or flu-like illness for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius) or signs of a fever (have chills, feel very warm, have a flushed appearance, or are sweating). This should be determined without the use of fever-reducing medications (any medicine that contains ibuprofen or acetaminophen). Don’t go to class or work.”

- **Student Medical Leave Policy:** Student Affairs will continue to notify Academic Affairs / faculty members of students placed on medical leave.
- **Siena Alert System:** Please enroll at www.siena.edu/sienaalert. If you have any questions or would like assistance related to the SAS registration process, please feel free to send an email to sienaalertsystem@siena.edu or contact Sandy Serbalik, Director of Risk Analysis and Project Management at 783-2596. *This tool is vital to our emergency communication efforts.*
- **Health and Safety Awareness:** A campus-wide *Health and Safety Day* event is scheduled for Friday, Sept 11. Additionally, SCTV will be airing CDC hand-washing recommended procedures on a regular basis. Student Affairs personnel will be orienting all residential students on appropriate precautions, as well as procedures in the case of illness – seeking assistance from Health Services, and remaining in Residence Halls.
- **Vaccine Clinic** is scheduled for **Thursday, October 29**. The seasonal flu shot will be available to all members of the Siena community at the vaccine clinic. At this time, there is no vaccine available for the H1N1 flu. Once a vaccine does become available, the local health departments (NYSDOH, ACHD) will be coordinating distribution of the vaccine. They will be following CDC recommendations / guidelines for administration of the vaccine.
- **Syllabus “Recommended Paragraph for Potential Closure”** is attached.
- **Student Health Insurance:** Students who are enrolled in the Aetna Student Health Insurance plan offered by Siena are covered by the plan from 8/15/09-8/15/10. Insurance cards are mailed to the student's home address on record after the enrollment / waiver period ends on September 15th. The Aetna Student health plan is an entirely on-line

system; so if a student needs to use his / her insurance coverage before he / she receives the card, the student can do so by providing name, date of birth and name of the school to the provider.

- Please monitor your e-mail regularly for further announcements and any changes to the College's strategy to prevent the spread of flu on our campus.

Siena's priority is to ensure the health and safety of our students and those who work at the College. We will keep you updated with information about the status of the H1N1 influenza at Siena as it becomes available to us.

Thank you for your cooperation. Linda



Please consider the environment before you print this e-mail.

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Pandemic / Emergency Preparedness:

(a) You are instructed to bring all texts and a copy of the syllabus/course schedule home with you in the event of a College Closure. The Academic Calendar will be adjusted upon Reopening; so be prepared for the possibility of a short mini-semester; rescheduled class / exam period; and /or rescheduling of the semester, depending on the length of the Closure.

(b) If your situation permits, you should continue with readings and assignments to the best of your ability, per the course schedule.

(c) You will be given instructions regarding how to deal with paper assignments requiring library or other required research by me, as needed.

(d) Online office hours will be used by me in order to maintain contact with my students. You will be able to “check-in” with questions that you have. If you do not have internet access available, I will also provide my home phone number and home address, as needed. Remember, internet, mail delivery, and telephone services may also be impacted by a Pandemic or other emergency event.

(e) Finally, stay connected with information regarding the status of the College’s status and Reopening schedule by monitoring the Siena website, www.siena.edu.