

Dear Siena College Community,

I'd like to provide you with an H1N1 update for our campus community since I have received several phone calls after the TU article about a positive H1N1 diagnosis at RPI . As of this date, we have no confirmed H1N1 cases on campus. All of the flu cultures we have done and processed through St Peter's Hospital Bender Laboratory have come back with negative results. We are continuing to triage, evaluate and treat sick students here in Health Services. At this time we have not seen large numbers of sick students or any particular trends in illness patterns. We are using our Medical Leave policy appropriately for those suspected flu like illness cases as a means to reduce the spread of illness here on campus. I want to thank all of you for the efforts you are taking to help minimize the spread of germs on campus.

Please continue to practice healthy habits such as:

- Wash your hands often and use hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available.
- Use tissues when you cough, sneeze or spit and dispose of the tissue in a covered trash bin
- Keep hands away from your face
- Keep your rooms neat and clean. Disinfect commonly uses surfaces.
- Do not share personal items such as forks, spoons, glasses and water bottles
- Avoid crowds or people who are ill.

The **H1N1 vaccine** is coming to our area in mid-late October. Albany County Health Department is meeting with local providers to develop a plan for distribution of the vaccine to the CDC identified top priority groups.

These groups include :

- Persons aged 6 months through 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25-64 who have medical conditions associated with a higher risk of flu complications
- Pregnant women
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel
- Household and caregiver contacts of children younger than 6 months of age

There is no anticipated shortage of vaccine at this time. We will continue to provide information to you about the vaccine availability and distribution as it becomes available to us.

As a reminder to students... If you have symptoms of flu and need to speak with a nurse to be evaluated, please contact our office at (518) 783-2554. Our nursing staff is able to triage your symptoms and give you health care advice and make an appointment for you as needed.

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