



Date: April 30, 2009
To: Landmark College Community & Parents
From: Brent E. Betit, Ed.D., Executive Vice President
RE: Update on the H1N1 Influenza (Swine flu)

Overview

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the emerging issue of the H1N1 influenza virus, also known as “swine flu.”

Since the College’s last communication to the Landmark College community on April 27, significant changes have occurred in the worldwide situation, and the Emergency Committee of Landmark College has convened to monitor and respond to events as delineated in our existing pandemic planning protocol. Yesterday the World Health Organization (WHO) upgraded its level of pandemic alert from Phase 4 to Phase 5. This level indicates that in the judgment of the WHO, a pandemic is imminent. A flu pandemic is a global outbreak that occurs when a new influenza virus causes serious human illness and spreads easily from person to person.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is reporting nearly 100 confirmed cases in 10 states in the US, including New York and Massachusetts, as well as the first US death attributed to the swine influenza, which occurred in Texas. *The New York Times* also reports three confirmed cases in Maine, and breaking news recently indicated 10 suspected cases at the University of Delaware.

Fortunately, at present, the Vermont Department of Health is reporting that there have been no probable or confirmed cases in Vermont from the swine influenza virus. The College remains open at this time, and classes and events continue as scheduled.

The next and final pandemic alert level is Phase 6. Should the WHO move to this alert level, direction from national policy makers will be provided, which Landmark College will adhere to. We may anticipate that, at this alert level, the likelihood of a defined period of closure of the College is high. At this point, Landmark College will follow its defined protocols and procedures related to closure and suspension of on-campus activities and will direct students to implement their personal evacuation plans. The College will maintain continuity of operations as delineated in its established pandemic plan, and further information and direction will be provided to employees regarding their activities and responsibilities.

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Landmark College Immediate Response

Health and government organizations agree that “social distancing” is one of the best practices that will limit the spread of the infection. This strategy is designed to prevent large gatherings of people and involves closure of schools, churches, movie theaters, etc. It is believed that, in the event of a pandemic, early social distancing will be essential in preventing the spread of disease.

At this time, the College has determined that it will not be necessary to close the campus. However, we will require that students depart campus after their last final exam and not wait until the close of campus on May 17, 2009, to go home. Students that are not graduating from the College and participating in the May graduation ceremony should make arrangements to depart campus within 24 hours of their last exam. Students should also not host any overnight guests from off campus in their residence rooms for the balance of this semester.

We will closely monitor this evolving situation and will provide notification as soon as possible should it threaten semester-end activities and programs, including graduation events.

Further Issues and Communication

The Emergency Committee of Landmark College is in routine contact and will monitor events closely.

Nearly every student has on file with the Office of Student Affairs a personal evacuation plan, which will facilitate an organized departure from the College in the event of closure. All Landmark College students should review and if necessary update their Personal Evacuation Plan. All students who have not filed a plan with the Office of Student Affairs are urged to do so as soon as possible.

The Director of Health Services remains in close contact with the Vermont Department of Health.

The Director of Marketing and Public Relations is available should there be any questions from the media, and all such inquiries should be directed to him.

Faculty and staff who are ill should notify their supervisor, stay home, and contact their primary care physician.

Information regarding Landmark College’s response will be made available on our website at <http://www.landmark.edu> and will be kept updated. We expect to communicate with the internal community on a weekly basis at minimum, and will send out other communications or alerts as necessitated by emerging events to the internal and external community.

We have available for use our e2campus Alert System, utilizing email and mobile technology messaging, and we will employ this if necessary.

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Other Information

The Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization are actively monitoring and studying this outbreak. You can find out more about this health concern at the following websites:

- Centers for Disease Control - <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>
- World Health Organization - <http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>
- Vermont Department of Health - <http://healthvermont.gov>

The Centers for Disease Control also recommends the following actions people can take to stay healthy:

- Stay informed. Watch the news and check the CDC website often.
- Take everyday actions to stay healthy.
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
 - Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Follow public health advice regarding school closures, avoiding crowds, and other social distancing measures.
- Develop a family emergency plan as a precaution. This should include storing a supply of food, medicines, facemasks, alcohol-based hand rubs and other essential supplies.

If you are a member of the internal Landmark College community and you are experiencing flu symptoms, please contact Health Services to be evaluated at

(802) 387-1636.