



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT

To: Landmark College Faculty & Staff
From: Brent E. Betit, Ed.D.
Date: 5/7/2009
Re: Update regarding our response to the Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

When the Emergency Committee convened on campus last week, we made a commitment to provide routine updates to the community, on at least a weekly basis. This memorandum is intended to provide a status update regarding the H1N1 virus, and to reassure the community that we are closely monitoring world events and considering all appropriate actions as part of our defined emergency planning protocols.

Members of the Emergency Committee have met frequently to stay apprised of the evolving H1N1 virus and its impact on the national and international community. As many of you are no doubt aware, while the incidence of this virus in the United States is growing, and the World Health Organization's (WHO) pandemic alert level remains at 5, the virulence of the virus strain appears to be less aggressive than initially indicated.

As of early today, 24 countries are reporting confirmed cases, with a total of nearly 2,400 individual cases reported. However, WHO further provides the following advice:

WHO is not recommending travel restrictions related to the outbreak of the influenza A(H1N1) virus.

Individuals who are ill should delay travel plans and returning travelers who fall ill should seek appropriate medical care. These recommendations are prudent measures which can limit the spread of many communicable diseases, including influenza.

During the earliest stages of the pandemic planning process, members of the Emergency Committee imposed a ban on student overnight guests at the College, and advised students to depart campus within 24 hours after their last exam ended. These directives appeared prudent and necessary, with the possibility of travel restrictions looming, and

our desire to ensure that students were able to depart campus and return home without such restrictions impeding their departure.

Residential and student affairs administrators are now providing exceptions to this student directive to the many students who have requested permission to remain on campus to watch their classmates and friends graduate. In light of the evolving situation, this appears a sensible and fair approach.

The Emergency Committee and its individual members, along with members of a number of departments – most particularly the department of ITS – has quickly taken a variety of steps to position the College for effective management of the various challenges. A non-exhaustive list of these actions include:

- Establishing a web link on our public site to update parents and the general public about our response;
- Establishing a shared folder on the server, to which all EC members have access, in order to document and maintain a record of all actionable items and their outcomes, meeting minutes, contact information, and other archival information;
- Ensuring that all members of the employee community are signed up for the e2Campus emergency alert system (we will be testing this system soon as well);
- Establishing and keeping updated a listing of all pending **events** on campus throughout the remaining calendar year that will bring visitors to campus;
- Documenting all known **visitors** to campus, including their place of origin and to the degree possible information about their recent travel (for example, Professional Visit Day or Open House attendees);
- Directing our General Contractor, Bread Loaf Corporation, to establish an electronic roster that will be used throughout the summer to track similar information relating to individual contractors and laborers working on our ongoing major construction project;
- Ensuring that our Chair of the Board is kept fully updated regarding our response;
- Contacting local health care facilities to document a protocol for suspect cases on campus;
- Identifying an isolation location on campus for any suspect cases.

We are indeed fortunate that this event has to date evolved more as a planning exercise than an emergency or crisis. The Emergency Committee nevertheless remains concerned, will continue its vigilance, and has scheduled weekly meetings to ensure we continue to track this evolving situation and respond as necessary and appropriate. We will provide another update to the community next week.

I wish each of you a healthy and safe finish to the semester.