



September 1, 2009

Letter sent to all current students and families

***This letter will be sent to each student enrolled in the 2009 fall class, as well as their families.***

Since last April, the H1N1 virus has demanded the attention and action of health organizations, government agencies, businesses, educational institutions and individuals. While the issue may be less present in the news media today than it was in April, the spread of the H1N1 virus continues to be closely monitored and addressed around the world.

Through its Emergency Management Committee, Landmark College has been actively responding to the concerns and issues caused by the virus as they emerge. This summer, the World Health Organization raised the alert level for the H1N1 virus to level 6 – its highest level – indicating that the virus has reached the pandemic level. This development required the Emergency Committee, which I chair, to review the College's current plans and responses to ensure we are appropriately safeguarding the health and welfare of students enrolled at the College and the employees who serve them.

While we have not had a single case of the H1N1 virus reported on Landmark's campus, it is essential to implement protocols that minimize your son/daughter's risk of exposure in the event that the virus impacts individuals within the Landmark College community. To effectively ensure your son or daughter's safety, as well as the safety of other students on campus, the College has implemented the following procedures, which are consistent with CDC recommendations:

- The College will continue to promote everyday preventive actions for students and staff.
- Any student with influenza-like illness (fever of 100°F (37.78°C)) with a cough and sore throat should report to Health Services in the Strauch Family Student Center. If the flu is suspected, the students will be isolated on campus until arrangements can be made for them to go home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. Students who seek out health care on their own are still obligated to inform the College of their symptoms. This is in line with CDC guidelines and the College's strategy of "social distancing" to limit the spread of the virus.
- Faculty and staff with these confirmed symptoms will be required to stay at home and not attend work for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

While the College remains open, we understand that some students may have medical conditions that increase their risk for serious complications. We encourage families to consult with their own health care providers for further guidance.

RE: Update on the H1N1 Influenza (Swine flu)

At this time, the College intends to continue operation using the current CDC guidance. However, the severity of flu outbreaks during the fall and winter months is unpredictable, and the H1N1 virus may have wider transmission and greater impact in the upcoming months. If this were to become the case, the College would continue to modify its response according to CDC and local health department guidance. These more aggressive mitigation measures may include:

- Prohibiting overnight guests and prohibiting any campus visitation by ill persons.
- Developing increased social-distancing practices.
- Considering the suspension of classes and/or closing the campus. For this reason, all students are required to submit a **Personal Evacuation Plan** form on an annual basis. This form has been sent to all incoming and returning students, and is also included in this mailer. It can also be found at [https://intranet.landmark.edu/orientation/documents/42440\\_2S\\_6\\_Pandemic\\_WEB.pdf](https://intranet.landmark.edu/orientation/documents/42440_2S_6_Pandemic_WEB.pdf)

As you may know, vaccinations are regarded as the best tool in the prevention of influenza. The CDC recommends that individuals get vaccinated against *seasonal influenza* as soon as vaccines become available at their doctors' offices and in their communities. The College will be sponsoring a *seasonal influenza* vaccine clinic on campus for students on Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 12:00-2:00 p.m., and again on Monday October 5<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. in the dining hall. The fee for this vaccination can be charged to a student's debit account.

At the present time, an H1N1 vaccine is currently in production and may be available for distribution in the fall. When possible, we will provide further updates regarding the availability of this vaccine on campus. In either case, we encourage you to consider encouraging your student to take advantage of these vaccines when they become available – either at home or while they are at College.

We will continue to keep you and the community updated and informed as this issue evolves. The College maintains and routinely updates the H1N1 information site at <http://www.landmark.edu/pandemic-flu/>. This site includes key contact information, identifying individuals who can respond to discrete questions that you may have.

We remain committed to providing a safe and healthy environment on this campus for the members of our close community. We are working diligently to ensure that your son's or daughter's participation as a member of this academic community is secure and rewarding, positioning them for the success and fulfillment that they so deserve.

Yours sincerely,



Brent E. Betit, Ed.D. Executive Vice President