

DATE: September 25, 2009
TO: College Community
FROM: Dr. Rick Rowland, Manager, Health Services
SUBJECT: H1N1 INFLUENZA A UPDATE

With College classes and activities underway, the Pandemic Response Committee would like to provide you with an update about the actions being taken to prepare for a possible H1N1 flu outbreak.

While we continue to monitor the spread of the H1N1 virus, there are currently no confirmed cases of the virus on campus. All classes and activities are and will operate normally until further notice.

The Pandemic Response Committee continues to meet regularly to assess the impact and progression of the virus. Also, members of the committee meet regularly with representatives of Ottawa Public Health and with other post-secondary institutions to coordinate activities and share best practices.

Since the beginning of the academic year the College has increased cleaning and sanitation efforts, including having six cleaning staff dedicated to disinfecting high-use areas and horizontal surfaces such as desks and tables. Also, the main campus has installed an additional 70 hand sanitizing stations, bringing the total to more than 150.

H1N1 awareness posters have been placed throughout the College to serve as reminders of simple steps we can all take to protect against the flu. You can minimize your chance of getting the flu by:

- Covering a cough or sneeze with your elbow or sleeve or using a tissue to cover your nose and mouth;
- Washing your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also available around campus;
- If you have flu-like symptoms, such as a fever, cough and aches you should stay home from school or work while you are ill and limit contact with others to reduce the chance of spreading the virus.

The province of Ontario announced on September 24 that seasonal flu vaccine will only be given to those 65 and over and to residents of long-term care homes starting in October. The H1N1 vaccine is expected to be made available to Ontario residents in November. Seasonal influenza immunization will be offered to other Ontario residents in December or January.

We will update the College Community as new details about vaccination schedules are made available.

For more detailed information and the most current updates, please visit the pandemic website at <http://www.algonquincollege.com/pandemic>