



Attention Parents:

The Holton Health Center welcomes you and your student to Spring Arbor University. As we enter the fall of 2009 semester, we anticipate that many of you are concerned about novel H1N1 influenza, which the World Health Organization has classified as a pandemic. We call it “novel” because it is a new virus and, therefore, many people do not have immunity, which would prevent them from suffering an outbreak. As you know, flu can be spread easily from person to person; therefore, we are taking steps to prevent the spread of the flu here at Spring Arbor University for as long as possible.

We are working closely with the Jackson County Health Department (JCHD), in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Public Health, to monitor flu conditions, but as you know, no matter where your student lives in the world this year he/she may be exposed to the H1N1 virus. Prevention is our best tool to keep all of us well.

The following strategies are in place at Spring Arbor University to help reduce the risk of the spread of illness:

- 1) Information will be placed in the welcome packets about the signs and symptoms of influenza
- 2) A hand washing and “cough and sneeze” etiquette campaign will be implemented
- 3) Hand washing “instructions” will be placed in the restrooms
- 4) Hand sanitizer stations will be placed in strategic locations
- 5) Computer labs will be supplied with Clorox wipes for keyboards
- 6) Holton Health Center will be offering free seasonal flu vaccines and is working with the JCHD regarding the H1N1 vaccine.

If a student develops symptoms of influenza, we ask that he/she phone the Holton Health Center at x1352 and ask to speak with a nurse. Phone assessments will take place and a plan of care will be developed and carried out. At that point, an appointment may be made for an evaluation for the student at the health service, or instructions will be given for self care

If your student develops influenza symptoms, and you live within driving distance, SAU may want you to come take your student home until his/her fever is below 100.0 F for 24 hours without fever reducing medication. If the student cannot get home, we will recommend that the student isolate themselves in their room until after their fever is below 100.0 F for 24 hours. The University will ensure that the student is provided meals in their room.

You can help by sending the following basic medical supplies with your students: a digital thermometer, acetaminophen or ibuprofen, tissues, bottled water, Gatorade, etc.

The health and safety of the Spring Arbor community is a top priority. All students, faculty, staff and visitors are encouraged to be vigilant about their health.

Sincerely,

Holton Health Center staff

