



Memo

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

To: All faculty, staff and students
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

From: Dr. Carol Herbert, Dean

Schulich Pandemic Planning Update #1

The University of Western Ontario has been engaged in a planning process over the past couple of months to prepare for a potential H1N1 pandemic on campus. At this time, we want to update you on our planning process. While many questions remain, we are committed to ensuring essential academic and research functions are supported through any possible disruption, while also protecting the health of our students, faculty, staff and postdoctoral fellows – regardless of where they work each day.

What we know about H1N1 at Western

- As of September 24, Student Health Services reported very low rates of students presenting with influenza-like symptoms.
- The Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) also reports very little influenza activity in our region at this time.
- In consultation with MLHU, Western is working on the best way to measure, track and report on influenza activity in our campus community and in the broader local area
- Prevention initiatives include provision of hand sanitizers, updates to washroom facilities, guides for faculty, staff and students and a dedicated website
<http://communications.uwo.ca/influenza-microsite/>

Schulich Medicine & Dentistry's Planning Process

- Two committees led by Bertha Garcia, Vice-Dean Education, and Victor Han, Associate Dean Research, are working on a plan to identify critical functions for both education and research.
- The plan includes consideration for students/trainees in clinical environments and those located off-campus, in Windsor/the region, as well as staff/faculty located in other institutions.
- Administrative critical functions not directly related to Education and Research have also been identified and are included in the plan (i.e. payroll)

How you can stay informed

- Schulich Medicine & Dentistry's website at www.schulich.uwo.ca will be a key tool for communication. An H1N1 section has been created on the home page on the lower left side where up-to-date resources will be posted
- Breaking news on H1N1 and pandemic planning will be posted to the School News section
- We will provide lists of Questions and Answers for faculty, staff and students, updated on a regular basis, available through the Schulich home page
- An email address has been created to send your additional questions:
flu.questions@schulich.uwo.ca
- We will also use our mass email system to provide updates like this one, as appropriate
- Information on a centralized absence reporting tool for tracking absences of students, faculty and staff will be communicated as soon as it becomes available

Thank you for your attention to this most important issue. For all of us to stay healthy, it is critical that we work through this as a team. Should you have any questions, please address them to flu.questions@schulich.uwo.ca . We will provide a response as soon as possible.