

Question: I have noticed more hand-cleaning signs and facilities around campus, is this in direct response to the threat of swine flu outbreak? Also, what other sort of precautions is the school taking to ensure that Bucks students hopefully remain healthy?

Answer: Yes, it is. All the recommendations from the CDC and Pa. Dept of Health include the importance of washing hands. We have purchased equipment for more regular and comprehensive cleaning of areas such as rest rooms as well as hiring additional per diem employees to use this equipment to clean on an increased schedule.

Question: What sort of things can students do to make sure they're not exposed to swine flu while on campus?

Answer: Frequent hand washing, coughing into one's sleeve and carrying disposable hand sanitizers for use on key boards, hands and surfaces wherever a person chooses are basic strategies. As with prevention for many sicknesses, it is important to get enough rest and avoid contact with people who already have the flu. Unfortunately, there is no surefire method of guaranteeing one won't be exposed whether on the campus, in a mall, at work, or even at home. Getting the flu shot when it becomes available is probably the best strategy for prevention.

Question: Would the school consider shutting down campus, or quarantining students if there were a particularly prolific outbreak on campus? What number or percentage of students and faculty would force a campus closing?

Answer: We are following the recommendations by the CDC and Pa Dept of Health where we urge all students and employees who contract flu-like symptoms to remain at home until 24 hours after resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications. We are asking faculty to review their policies on absenteeism, exams and late assignments so that these concerns don't prevent students from staying home when ill or prompt them to return to class when they might still be infectious. We are also urging the use of email, telephone, text messaging and the expansion or substitution of on-line learning where appropriate to continue the process of learning, if necessary. Naturally the administration, faculty and staff would prefer not to "shut down the campus". If there is a high level of influenza activity at Bucks and in the larger community there may be a need to cancel a class, an athletic event, or cultural event if teams or performers are affected. We are not anticipating a campus closing, but if events brought that into question, we would consult with the Pa. Dept of Health and others before making such a decision.

Question: What sorts of steps are being taken to educate students and faculties about the danger of the virus?

Answer: You noted signs around campus. In addition, I have sent an email to all students that I have attached to this email. In addition the Provost/Dean of Academic Affairs Annette Conn has sent a letter to all faculty. Our website gives the address of several places where more in depth and updated information can be gotten, such as www.flu.gov and www.health.state.pa.us.

Question: What message about the dangers of the virus would you like to relay to the readers of the *Centurion*?

Answer: While no one yet knows the toll this virus might take in the United States, it is important to pay attention to your health and take the information that is available for prevention and recovery very

seriously. Whether you are in a “high risk” group or not, the flu is a serious illness. Do all that you can to remain healthy and hopefully avoid it.

Karen L Dawkins
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September 21, 2009