

University Health Advisory

(October 19, 2009)

SHS reports twenty (20) students seen in health services have tested positive for influenza A. Students seen in SHS who test positive for influenza A are instructed to self-isolate until fever-free for 24 hours, preferably in their family home. Other options include their residence hall room or apartment. They are prescribed medication and provided a Care Bag that includes a mask and other preventive items. Students who are diagnosed in SHS are also instructed to inform their roommates to contact SHS, if they have flu symptoms.

- ✦ A modest supply of antiviral medication (i.e. Tamiflu) is available to students who do not have the means to pay for it; contact student health officials for more information.

When waiting to be seen at SHS, students with a cough, cold, sore throat, fever, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea are asked to PLEASE WEAR masks provided by front desk staff. If unable to wear a mask, please cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow. Promptly dispose of all tissues in trash receptacles. Use hand sanitizer frequently, especially before and after you touch others or objects around you.

SHS has approximately 60 seasonal flu vaccines remaining. These vaccines are available to students for a nominal fee. Students are encouraged to call SHS to make a nurse appointment to be vaccinated. Any remaining seasonal flu vaccines will be administered at the next planned flu clinics, October 21st/ 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Waccamaw Hall; October 28th/ 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., University Place.

- ✦ SHS will offer H1N1 vaccines to students, when they become available.

We continue to monitor through the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) H1N1, formerly known as Swine Flu, related events. CDC reports from August 30 – October 10, 2009 there have been 15,696 hospitalizations and 2,029 deaths associated with influenza virus infection, based upon new reporting guidelines. Below is supplemental information and helpful links:

- 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Supply Status, <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccinesupply.htm>
- Updated Recommendations on Antivirals, <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>
- 2009 H1N1 and Seasonal Flu: What You Should Know About Flu Antiviral Drugs, http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/2009-10/pdf/Antiviral_H1N1_factsheet.pdf
- <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>
- <http://www.scdhec.gov/flu/swine-flu.htm> (DHEC)
- <http://www.pandemicflu.gov> (Department of Health and Human Services)

Good Health Habits for Prevention:

- Get your seasonal flu vaccinations now and H1N1 vaccinations when they become available.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Frequent hand washing with soap and water (wash hands for at least 15 seconds).
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers to clean hands if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If sick, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others. Remain isolated until fever-free for at least 24 hours.
- Eat healthy and get plenty of rest.

Students experiencing flu-like symptoms are advised to contact Student Health Services, and others are advised to contact their primary healthcare provider.