

November, 2009

Dear Students:

As you may have heard, a new influenza virus, called the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, was first identified in the United States in late April 2009. The virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, including hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children. Many students have gotten 2009 H1N1 infection and there have been large outbreaks in some schools and colleges across the country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that college students, through age 24 and younger be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 as soon as the vaccine is available. Other groups recommended to get the first doses of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine are:

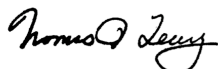
- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical services workers, and
- People ages 25 through 64 years who have certain health conditions such as HIV, diabetes, or heart or lung disease.

Vaccination is the best way to protect you from this potentially serious disease. The Pennsylvania Department of Health is working with Luzerne County Community College to offer the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to students here on our main campus in Nanticoke. We will hold vaccination clinics tentatively scheduled for December 1, 2 and 3 from 9:00 am-7:00 pm for students in the highest risk group – ages 24 and younger. These dates are tentative and are dependent on the Pa Dept of Health shipping us the vaccine. Students are expected to need only one dose of vaccine. There will be no cost to students for this vaccine.

Please read the Vaccine Information Sheet posted in all restrooms and bulletin boards around campus about the disease and the vaccine. If you wish to receive the vaccine, you must complete, sign and date the consent form (***those under 18 must have parental/guardian consent and signature***) to accept vaccination and bring it with you when the "Clinic" dates and times are announced. College staff will let you know when the vaccination clinic will take place through the College Intranet, student e-mail and emergency alert system.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call: 570-740-0427 or 740-0521 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please visit the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and also <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents> for more information especially for parents. Your health care provider also can answer your questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and will be able to give you the seasonal influenza vaccine and may be able to give you the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Leary
President