

To the Walnut Hill Community:

As most of you are aware H1N1 influenza (“the swine flu”) continues to be an international concern. The Walnut Hill Health Center has been working closely with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to create a preventative plan as well as a plan of action if there is a campus outbreak. These plans include:

Prevention:

- *Education* - Because good hand washing is the #1 way to prevent the spread of illness, hand washing will be promoted on campus with demonstration and written material. Overall illness prevention information will also be disseminated.
- *Hand sanitizers* - Each student will be given an individual bottle of hand sanitizer for personal use, which can be refilled at the health center at any time. In addition, strategically-placed hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed on campus.
- *Immunization* - The Health Center will be privy to information coming out about H1N1 vaccine release and availability. After meeting with the Natick Department of Public Health, I am confident we will have enough vaccines for all students who desire it. Permission slips will be distributed as soon as the Health Center is notified of an allotment. We have also ordered season flu vaccinations for the entire student body.

Assessment: All students will be assessed for flu-like symptoms during registration. Further triaging will be done as needed. Any students showing any flu-like symptoms accompanied with a fever (temperature >100 degrees) will be treated as having a flu-like illness. These flu-like symptoms include:

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| ▪ Cough | ▪ Head, neck or eye pain |
| ▪ Congestion | ▪ Body aches |
| ▪ Sore Throat | ▪ Loss of appetite |
| ▪ Fatigue | |

Treatment: We will be following our influenza protocol for all students with flu-like illness. Students will be sent home if they live locally and isolated from the community until symptoms resolve if unable to go home. The Health Center and parents/guardians will be facilitating care for these students in collaboration with the school medical practice and current DPH guidelines.

Notification: Information will be distributed to students, staff, and parents as it becomes available regarding this and any other health concerns that may affect the campus community.

This is a situation that we will continue to monitor closely. We believe we will come through this situation unscathed and continue to have a happy, HEALTHY community!

Please contact the health center if you have any further questions or concerns!

Most Sincerely,

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