



August 2009

Dear Saint John's University, Parents, and Families,

Recently, there has been much national public health focus on the H1N1 influenza virus (formerly referred to as "Swine Flu"). Colleges and universities around the country have been encouraged by federal, state and local authorities to have plans in place to prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic. The health and safety of our students is a top priority at Saint John's and we take these cautions seriously. We regularly plan for a variety of contingencies and monitor situations that could impact student health or safety. To that end, we began planning last spring for a potential H1N1 outbreak and if an outbreak occurs we will be prepared to implement our response plan.

We continue to encourage all students and members of our community to follow the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control which recommends frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue and avoiding contact with those who are sick. The CDC is also recommending the seasonal flu vaccine as a precautionary measure. We urge any student who is experiencing symptoms associated with the virus to seek medical care.

SJU students can utilize the Health Partners Central Minnesota Clinic at Saint John's located on the first floor of the Quad, for basic health care needs and for influenza-like illnesses. Health Partners is a fee for service clinic which accepts most major health insurance, will be open Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm. The seasonal flu vaccine will be available in the fall. We encourage students to talk with their parents regarding the seasonal flu vaccine and other precautionary measures that can be taken to remain as healthy as possible while at college.

The H1N1 flu is a changing situation which we will continue to actively monitor. Coordination and communication are some of our strongest tools in addressing this situation. We will keep you apprised of any news and guidance as it becomes available from local, state and national resources. Please refer to the CSB/SJU website (<http://www.csbsju.edu>) for information and updates as they become available. Additionally, the following websites also provide useful information regarding influenza and the H1N1 virus:

Centers for Disease Control	www.cdc.gov/h1n1/flu/
World Health Organization	www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.htm
Minnesota Department of Health	http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/h1n1/

Thank you for your assistance in keeping our campus community safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Fr. Doug

Fr. Doug Mullin, OSB
Vice President for Student Development