



Four Confirmed Cases Of H1N1 At UNH

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DURHAM, N.H. –The University of New Hampshire has learned in the last 24 hours that four students have confirmed cases of the H1N1 influenza virus. They were all advised to go home or self isolate as much as possible.

UNH Health Services started to see an increase in the number of students with “ILI,” or influenza-like illness, on campus about three weeks ago and was authorized by the state to submit a limited number of flu samples for testing. Testing is done for surveillance purposes. The university will no longer be testing since H1N1 has been confirmed on campus.

“Like many institutions of higher education around the country we have seen a recent increase in the number of students with flu-like symptoms,” said Kevin Charles, executive director of UNH Health Services. “It is important to remember that while we have confirmed cases of H1N1 it does not change the way our staff treats students with ILI or our ongoing efforts around education to prevent the spread of illness. Although we have now confirmed the presence of the virus on campus, our response to the situation remains exactly the same as it has been.”

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Don’t share towels, eating utensils, toothbrushes, drinking glasses or other items that may spread germs.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Take care of yourself, eat healthy meals and get enough sleep.

Charles noted that UNH Health Services has seen an increase in the number of students with flu-like symptoms in the last three weeks. Students are encouraged to go home, if possible, or to self isolate as much as they can.

UNH Health Services has received a limited number of H1N1 vaccines and is following the state Department of Health and Human Services guidelines regarding distribution. The groups at most risk of serious complications or death are encouraged to get the vaccine first, including pregnant women, children 6 months to 5 years of age with chronic medical conditions, and health care workers and first responders with direct patient contact. Paul Dean, UNH’s director of emergency management, is currently participating in H1N1 workshops with campus, local, state and federal emergency managers from around the country and stressed that “UNH’s efforts are in line with the latest prevention efforts being deployed across the United States.”

New Hampshire residents with questions are encouraged to contact the state's H1N1 Flu Public Inquiry Line by dialing 2-1-1. The information line is open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information on H1N1 flu, visit UNH Health Services at http://www.unh.edu/health-services/news/2009-08-21_h1n1.html, http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/DHHS_SITE/swineflu.htm or the CDC at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea, and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling more than 12,200 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students.

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