

MVC H1N1 FLU STRAIN EMERGENCY RESPONSE DOCUMENT

Overview

This flu response plan has been developed with input from the Crisis Response Team and the President's Cabinet. This document is to be a guide for Missouri Valley College's response to the H1N1 flu strain. This document and the policies within it may be adjusted if new information is given by the Federal Government or Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Goals

- Provide accurate health information to all MVC constituencies
- Provide excellent health care to our students.
- Provide a safe and healthy environment in which our students can recover.

Operating principles

- Open and continuous communication with faculty, staff, students, parents, and other important constituencies.
- Emphasis on coughing etiquette and hand sanitation.
- Students who exhibit flu-like symptoms must report immediately to the Health Center.
- Faculty and staff who exhibit flu-like symptoms must remain at home until 24 hours after their fever ends.

Pre-Event

Communications Campaign

- E-mail MVC lists directing them to flu.gov for up-to-date information as well as to the MVC web page containing this plan.

Meetings

- Faculty to review class absence policy at beginning of semester.
- Link in syllabus to this policy.
- Explanation of influenza operating principles to all resident students at Residence Hall meetings.
- Meeting with dining hall and housekeeping personnel to discuss preventive measures.

Hand Sanitizers

- Housekeeping to fill sanitizers in following locations:
 - Computer labs
 - Cafeteria
 - Staff offices
 - Burns gymnasium

H1N1 Vaccination

- Saline County Health Department has indicated release of vaccine this fall, but no indication of how many doses Missouri Valley College will receive.
- MVC will follow CDC recommended distribution guidelines, modified for our population.

- MVC will probably not be allocated enough H1N1 vaccinations to cover all faculty, staff, and students, approximately 1,600. Vaccines will be allocated according to the following prioritized list.
- H1N1 vaccines priority list:
 - Pregnant women
 - Health and counseling center staff
 - Campus safety and security
 - Residence life staff
 - Students, focusing on those with medical conditions that place them at high risk
 - Athletic training students
 - Crisis response team
 - Housekeeping and maintenance staff
 - Hospitality services

If vaccines are still available after this list is addressed, then an additional priority list will be published for the campus community.

Additional Information

- Testing for H1N1 will likely not occur.
- The CDC has no recommendation against school closings. This decision will be up to the President of the college.
- Tamiflu will not be a preferred treatment option.
- Seasonal flu and H1N1 vaccinations will be administered in the fall as soon as vaccines become available.

Event

The Trigger Event

The following incidents would call the Crisis Response Team into action:

- If the Health Center staff records the number of flu-like cases has exceeded the normal number of patients for a specific period of time.
- If there is a serious case in which hospitalization results from flu-like symptoms.
- If H1N1 occurs in areas surrounding MVC before manifesting on campus.

Additional events may trigger a crisis response which will be determined by MVC officers.

Operating Principles

- Emphasize that a patient is contagious 24 hours before symptoms manifest, in which case roommates will have already been exposed to the virus. Recommend that roommates not relocate to another room after their roommate begins to exhibit flu-like symptoms since they have already been exposed. Roommates may be carriers and may infect a healthy location if relocated.
- Parents may decide to take their child home if ill; request MVC be informed.
- Respiratory isolation is recommended by CDC, meaning that those who are sick should isolate themselves from others by staying home and not attending classes, work, social events, and any other activities putting them in contact with other people.

CMT Response Options

If the Crisis Response Team is called into action, a series of action plans may be activated as deemed appropriate and necessary:

- Large gatherings, including athletic events, may be postponed or canceled.
- Nurse's office may expand hours of operation.
- Dining service protocols changed or altered.
- Faculty and staff who exhibit flu-like symptoms should stay home and not return to work until 24 hours after their fever has ended.
- Faculty and staff experiencing flu-like symptoms and staying at home should contact the Chief Academic Officer's Office and students via College Faculty or Moodle.
- Faculty and staff who have immediate family members exhibiting flu-like symptoms may be asked to stay at home.
- E-mails and web postings will begin and continue throughout the outbreak to update the community on the current situation, action plans, and instructions.
- All students with flu-like symptoms will be referred to the nurse's office.
- Students will be assessed by the nursing staff. If they are exhibiting flu-like symptoms, the following may occur:
 - A fever-reducing medication will be encouraged.
 - Instructed to return to their rooms and isolate themselves and not to attend class, work, practices, or other activities until 24 hours have passed after their fever ends.
 - Upon seeing the nurse the student will:
 - Sign a release of information.
 - Record their name, cell phone number, and room where they will be residing while in isolation.
 - Check and update emergency contact information.
- Administrative assistant to the Chief Academic Officer will post the sick list at the end of each work day by 4:30 p.m. This list will be located in a public folder in Outlook and available to approved faculty and staff.
- If an ill-student attends class, work, and/or practice within the first two days of diagnosis, faculty or staff should ask the student about their fever and, if need be, send them back to their room or the nurse's office for clearance.
- Nurses will encourage the sick students to follow up within 24 hours after the first visit.
- Each night Residence Life Staff (or designee) will check in on any student via phone call.
- Sick students will be asked to stay in isolation until 24 hours after their fever ends.
- The Crisis Response Team may order a temporary Grab-n-Go be set up in Ferguson.
- Crisis Response Team will be in communication with other colleges in Missouri to share experiences, knowledge, and resources.
- These protocols may be amended and/or changed based on recommendations from the CDC and/MVC experiences.

Post Event:

- Crisis Response Team will communicate to the community about protocols and services enacted during the outbreak.
- Crisis Response Team will consult with the Saline Count Health Department and the CDC for additional recommendations.
- Crisis Response Team will complete a debriefing and a post infection report.