

Thursday, May 1, 2009

SWINE FLU UPDATE—April 29, 2009

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Benjamin Franklin

Dear Colleagues,

The purpose of this message is to present you with a summary of guidelines, actions and procedures that have been put in place districtwide at each of our colleges and Continuing Education to address the Swine Flu outbreak facing us.

I'd like to resort to the family metaphor as we often do here at Mesa College to make sure that we do first things first—take care of ourselves and take care of each other. The best way to do this is to be informed, be clear about what we are doing, understand the steps in the process as it evolves and know how to access factual and current information directly. I have organized the rest of this document in two parts; Part I summarizes Districtwide Standards established for managing this situation and Part II details College actions designed to meet those standards.

Part I—District Standards/Actions

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

- Chancellor's Cabinet meets and conducts an extended discussion on the status of the Swine Flu outbreak, steps undertaken by the Colleges, Continuing Education and the District Office and the necessary next steps to manage the process effectively.
- Districtwide Issuance of a Chancellor's Cabinet Special Advisory summarizing the discussion
- Vice Chancellor Neault issues an "e-mail blast" to all students providing information, outlining preventative measures and directing students to key information links nationally locally and redirecting students to the websites at their respective campus.

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Chancellor convenes a special meeting of the District Emergency Response Team to establish clear standards for managing the situation throughout the District and to agree upon actions and communication requirements at each of the Colleges, Continuing Education and the District Office. A summary follows:

1. The District's Website will be the official point of reference on districtwide management of the situation. The website will be managed and updated regularly.
2. Immediate purchase of Purell sanitizers will be made districtwide to ensure that dispensers are available in every office.

3. Purell Dispensers already at key locations at Mesa, Miramar and City will be refilled immediately.
4. Custodial staff will undertake added measures to sanitize high traffic areas, “high touch” areas.
5. Suspected flu cases anywhere on the campus will be reported and handled using existing protocols established for all other contagious diseases (i.e. Vice President of Student Services, Student Health Services Center Director, Dean of Student Affairs, Vice Chancellor Lynn Neault).
6. All media related communications will be centralized through Richard Dittbenner, Director of Public Information and Government Relations.

Part II—A Summary of College Actions

Monday, April 27,

- Collegewide advisory using Mesa’s DL is issued by Suzanne Khambata, Director of Student Health Services.
- Advisory is placed on Mesa’s Website including critical links to the CDC, FAQs, CDC Podcast the San Diego Department of Health EMAN and a link to the SDCCD Special Advisory on Swine Flu.
- President issues collegewide message reinforcing preventative measures and underscoring the importance of staying home if ill.

Tuesday, April 28

- President’s Cabinet reviews status of the Swine Flu management process on campus and recommends:
 - o Changes to Mesa’s webpage to increase “visibility of the message” (this includes placement of a running “banner” and highlighting the Swine Flu link in “red”)
 - o Purell Dispensers at 46 strategic locations on campus.
 - o Stepping up direct delivery of pamphlets to students, faculty and staff by handing these out at critical locations, cafeteria and LRC.
 - o Purchase of Purell and/or other sanitizers to hand out to students.
 - o Continual update of Mesa’s website.

Wednesday, April 29

- President’s Update prepared to summarize actions at the District and the College.
- President Issues Guidelines for Managers and Supervisors

CONCLUSION

1. Please – Stay home if you are ill and seek immediate medical advice.

2. Become very familiar with Swine Flue Symptoms
3. Practice all preventative measures
4. Review all links provided to address your personal information needs
5. Avoid non-essential travel
6. Check the Mesa College website regularly

Finally, a note of assurance in these uncertain times, please feel confident that regular communication between the colleges and the District Office and within Mesa College is ongoing and systematic. If you have any suggestions, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to communicate with your immediate manager. In addition, feel free to contact me and any member of the Executive Staff .

Important links: California Department of Public Health (www.cdph.ca.gov)
Centers for Disease Control (http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.htm)
County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Emergency Medical Alert Network (www.emansandiego.com)