



H1N1 Planning and Response Considerations for Career Colleges



*A Webinar presented to the Career College Association
by
James Lee Witt Associates and Anthem Education Group*

Presenters



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- **Suzanne Blake**

Higher Education Emergency Management
Specialist

James Lee Witt Associates

- **Tabitha Lyons**

Corporate Program Manager for the
Medical Assisting Program

Anthem Education Group



Outline



- Presenters
- H1N1 Situation
- Impact on your school
- Preparing your school
 - Emergency management/response planning
 - Business continuity planning
- Prevention
- Education and outreach
- Questions

Situation



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- First wave of H1N1 hit in Spring 2009
- Two flu strains are expected to simultaneously impact the country this fall
 - Seasonal Flu (“normal” flu)
 - H1N1 (already present)
- With two viruses and a unique strain, the chance for more people getting sick increases
- H1N1 symptoms are similar to the seasonal flu, however the virus may become more serious



Situation (cont.)



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- The H1N1 virus remained “strong” during the summer (non-flu season)
- This fall: wider transmission and greater impact
- Influenza Like Illness (ILI): Fever (100° or greater) plus cough and/or sore throat
- Testing varies by state
- H1N1 has different “higher-risk” groups for transmission & complications than the seasonal flu

Vulnerable Populations



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- Pregnant women
- Caregivers to children under 6 months
- Healthcare workers
- Children 6 months to 24 years of age
- Adults under 65 with chronic illness
- Individuals with prior respiratory or chronic health conditions



H1N1 Vaccine



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- H1N1 Vaccine is currently under development
- Federal Government is the distributor of the H1N1 vaccine
 - State, then County will be responsible for logistical assistance
- H1N1 may require two doses / patient encounters
- Doses should be available in mid-October and weekly thereafter
- Work with county officials
 - Number of doses
 - Point-of-dispensing site

Impact on your school



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- Student absenteeism
- Employee absenteeism
 - Loss of 30% of work force
- Employees' and students' children
 - School closings
 - Illnesses
- Cancellation of events and classes
- Loss of enrollment
- Perception/reputation



Objectives for Schools and H1N1



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JAMES LEE
WITT

ASSOCIATES
Part of GlobalOptions Group

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- Keep people healthy
- Keep the school community and partners informed
- Maintain business continuity

Preparing your school



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- Opportunity to develop a plan
 - Do you have an emergency plan for your school?
 - All-hazards focus
 - Policy group
 - Operations group
 - Exercises/drills and training
- Work with local and state agencies
 - Public Health
 - Emergency Management

Preparing your school (cont.)



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- Establish policies related to flu
 - Travel, leave (students and employees), telecommuting, distance learning, study abroad
- Identify essential/critical functions
 - Positions, not names
 - Critical to the continuation of business
 - Three deep
- Plan for alternate working/learning environments
 - Technology
 - Alternate work sites
 - Distance learning

Preparing your school (cont.)



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- Establish enhanced cleaning procedures
 - Follow CDC guidelines
 - Include housekeeping staff in planning
 - “High Touch” surfaces
- Stockpile supplies
 - External businesses may be interrupted
 - Necessities (food, water, etc.) to keep school in session
 - Hygiene supplies
 - Equipment and supplies necessary for business operations

Preparing your school (cont.)



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- Create illness tracking procedures
 - Work with Human Resources for staff absences
 - Work with instructors and student services department for student absences
 - Monitor CDC H1N1 information
- Develop social distancing procedures
- Create triggers for social distancing, class cancellations, closures, etc.
 - Work with Policy Group

Preparing your school (cont.)



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- Write a continuity of operations plan for the following scenarios:
 - Lack of office space
 - Lack of employees
 - Lack of technology systems
- For the following time periods:
 - 24 hours
 - 2 weeks
 - 3 months

Prevention



- Be proactive, but encourage personal responsibility
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Dispensers in crowded areas
 - Sold in vending machines
 - Educational resources
 - Posters, websites, etc. in crucial locations
 - “Flu kits”
 - Sanitary wipes available for “high touch” surfaces (computer labs, etc.)

Prevention (cont.)



- Facilitate “self isolation” (encourage sick students and employees to stay home)
 - Stay home until 24 hours after fever subsides without the use of fever-reducing medication
- No penalty absenteeism
 - Work with supervisors (for staff) and instructors (for students)
- Encourage ill persons to seek medical attention
- Education about hand-washing and cough etiquette

Prevention (cont.)



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- Discourage attendance at large events
- Establish policies for large student groups that spend a lot of time together in close quarters (teams, clubs, etc.)
- Provide distance learning if possible
- Encourage seasonal flu vaccine and H1N1 vaccine (when available)



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Prevention (cont.)



- If situation worsens
 - Consider canceling large events
 - Consider canceling classes
 - Extend self isolation period
 - Take extra considerations/precautions for high-risk students and staff
 - Increase distance learning opportunities
 - Increase social distancing

Education and Outreach (cont.)



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- Educational resources
 - Don't reinvent the wheel
 - CDC and DHS
 - State Public Health
 - County Public Health
 - Other schools
 - Procedures for hand sanitizers, masks, etc. (CDC and OSHA)
 - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
 - Websites

Education and Outreach (cont.)



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- Communications
 - Have a communications plan: how to communicate with the entire campus community (students and staff)
 - Share communications plan with campus community
 - Use a variety of methods
 - Have a central location for H1N1 information (i.e. a website or one POC department)
 - Update regularly

Resources



- Centers for Disease Control
 - <http://cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/print.htm>
- Department of Homeland Security
 - www.flu.gov
 - <http://www.flu.gov/professional/school/index.html>
- International Association of Emergency Managers
 - <http://www.iaem.com/committees/College/index.htm>
- DRU Listserve and Repository
 - Sign up: <http://lists.uoregon.edu/list-interface.html>
 - Repository: <http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/emergency-management/dru>
- American College Health Association weekly report
 - http://www.acha.org/ILI_Surveillance.cfm
- State and County Public Health websites



Questions?

Contact information



- **Suzanne Blake**
Higher Education Emergency Management Specialist
James Lee Witt Associates
sblake@wittassociates.com
- **Tabitha Lyons**
Corporate Program Manager for the Medical Assisting Program
Anthem Education Group
TLyons@anthem.edu
- **Monty Cox**
Career College Association
MontyC@career.org