



# 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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# 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.)



- 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



- 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)

# 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)
  - <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://safetyervices.ucdavis.edu/emergency-management/dru>
- American College Health Association weekly report
  - [http://www.acha.org/ILI\\_Surveillance.cfm](http://www.acha.org/ILI_Surveillance.cfm)
- State and County Public Health websites



# Questions?

# Contact information



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