

EIU Health Services H1N1 Update – December 1, 2009

Influenza-like Illnesses down at Eastern Illinois University and throughout Illinois

The number of students identified with flu syndrome has decreased weekly during the month of November. Health Service was particularly busy in the month of October with students presenting with influenza-like illnesses and other respiratory infections. However, fewer cases of H1N1 were identified each week during the month of November. Fortunately for the campus, as the end of the semester approaches, H1N1 appears to be on a downward trend. This seems to reflect what is occurring throughout the country. Although 43 states, including Illinois are still showing widespread illness, office visits for influenza-like illnesses declined for the third week in a row.

H1N1 vaccine is available at Health Service to eligible students and employees. Those people considered high risk are encouraged to receive the vaccine. Please call Health Service to schedule an appointment. The vaccine is free. Vaccine supplies remain low nationally, but production continues and the CDC ships more vaccine weekly to the states. The CDC will notify physicians and patients when all individuals are eligible for the vaccine. Health Service will plan for mass vaccination clinics when this occurs.

Sincerely,
Sheila D. Baker, MD
Medical Director
Eastern Illinois University Health Service