

Statement from Shari T Shapleigh, FNP regarding Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 flu, August 12, 2009

Over the summer months the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) have been following the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 flu (formally known as swine flu). This strain of flu virus continues to remain highly transmissible from person to person, especially in the younger adult, and can cause illness from mild symptoms needing no medical interventions to more severe illness requiring hospitalization.

Although a vaccine for Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 flu is currently undergoing clinical trials, its availability will not be until late fall. Initial production may limit available doses and will be used to vaccinate target (high-risk) populations. The vaccine will most likely require a series of two doses 30 days apart. Further information about the vaccine and the target high-risk populations can be found on the links provided below.

It is important to note that the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 flu vaccine **will not contain** vaccine against the 'regular' seasonal flu. The CDC and WHO are predicting a more severe flu season with both 'regular' seasonal flu and Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 flu circulating in communities. The CDC urges everyone to be vaccinated against the 'regular' seasonal flu as soon as vaccine is available.

TC3 is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for the campus community and will be offering 'regular' **seasonal flu vaccine free of charge to all faculty, staff and current students**. TC3 Health Services will be posting times in the near future for flu vaccine clinics via posters and online on the Health Services homepage.

Information regarding Pandemic (H1N1) flu vaccine and it's availability will be posted as it becomes available. When and how the vaccine will be distributed, as well as cost, is not known at this time.

Tompkins County Department of Health FAQs about Pandemic (H1N1) flu vaccine:

http://www.tompkins-co.org/health/h1n1/update_2009-07-22.html

Center for Disease Control (CDC) information about Pandemic (H1N1) flu vaccine:

<http://cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/acip.htm>

In good health,
~Shari

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