

LANGARA COLLEGE

H1N1 Pandemic Planning



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- Langara has formed an H1NI flu pandemic response team consisting of representatives from Administration, Registration, Faculty, Human Resources, Communication, Building Services, Student Support Services, International Education, and the Health Center
- have met to identify concerns and plan strategies
- would use the BC Emergency Response Management System as a model in case of a serious outbreak at the college



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Action Taken to Date

- have a webpage that provides the latest information on the H1N1 flu virus to the College community
- posters and flyers have been distributed to students and around the campus with information on how one can protect oneself and how not to spread the virus
- notices about hand washing have been posted in the washrooms around campus and hand sanitizers have been installed in several locations
- influenza H1N1 updates are provided on a regular basis to students, employees and the general public through online and printed communications
- there has been increased frequency of cleaning of "high touch" public areas such as washrooms, door handles and counter tops
- the Health Services Center held a flu vaccination clinic on campus on November 3 and plans to hold more as the vaccine becomes more available



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International Education Office

- are responding to individual enquiries or cases as they arise
- in our weekly newsletter to students we have provided the link to the College's H1N1 webpage
- during orientations we are telling students about the BC Nurse Hotline number 811 and about upcoming flu clinics
- during the SARS outbreak, our office prepared information flyers that were sent to:
 - international students on campus
 - international students abroad who were preparing to come to Vancouver
 - homestay students
 - homestay families
- the flyers provided information about SARS, medical coverage, airport screening and quarantine, links to information websites and information hotlines (such as the BC Nurse Hotline)



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- we had also developed a contingency plan for dealing with SARS issues involving homestay students
- we have not adapted/sent out these flyers to the above groups because we feel that we are able to provide sufficient information through the college's H1N1 website



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Homestay Program

- generally, few questions from host families and few concerns about hosting international students
- a couple of host families have temporarily stopped taking students
- in the spring, we heard from some worried agents/parents asking what we were doing to deal with the flu
- over last several months, we have not received any enquiries around this issue
- one host insisted that their student get vaccinated along with their family and we provided a link to list of free flu clinics
- one student has come down with the flu and host wanted student moved from the home
- host was advised to isolate the student in his room and bring his meals to him there
- we have not identified homes in which we could quarantine a student because by the time a student has been diagnosed or is suspected as being infected, the student would have already exposed the family and a move would just put a new family and coordinator moving student at risk
- have forwarded letters from the VSB to our host families with their students



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Incoming Group Programs

- in the spring, had much correspondence with overseas contacts whose institutions were making decisions about whether to cancel overseas study programs
- they wanted to know the situation in Vancouver and what we were doing to deal with the issue
- provided information and reassurance
- many institutions made the decision to cancel all study abroad programs, regardless of whether or not a country or area was even affected
- some groups cancelled or postponed their summer/fall programs because of concerns about the flu



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International Study Abroad Programs

- we have few study abroad programs (4 per year)
- have a general risk prevention and crisis management plan in place for such programs
- would develop a program specific plan for dealing with a pandemic issue in a particular country
- a group went to New York at the height of their H1N1 scare in the spring
- we monitored the city's and State Health Authorities websites to determine the level of the seriousness of the outbreak and decide if the program should run
- did research such as contacting hotel to determine if student(s) could be quarantined at the hotel if necessary, found addresses for clinics/hospitals near hotel
- during orientation with students discussed the H1N1 situation, outlining the risks, and giving students the options to cancel the program



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