

September 4, 2009

Dear Salve Parents:

As you are aware, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other Global Health Organizations are expecting widespread illness resulting from the spread of the H1N1 virus in the months ahead. The Emergency Preparedness Committee at Salve Regina University has developed a COOP (Continuity of Operations Plan) with policies and procedures for addressing a variety of emergency situations. In recent months the focus of this committee has been on preparations for the upcoming flu season – particularly for the new H1N1 influenza. This letter will highlight some important information in that regard.

As students return to campus, they will see additional signage in restroom areas and other campus locations with practical advice about good hygiene. Additional hand sanitizers were placed around campus during last spring's flu season and the university community is encouraged to continue to use these. A seasonal winter flu vaccination clinic has been scheduled for Thursday, September 24th, on campus. Students are encouraged and welcome to take advantage of that clinic – or obtain a flu shot from a physician at home.

When clinical trials are completed and the new H1N1 flu vaccine is made available for college students, University Health Services will sponsor vaccination clinics on campus. Salve Regina administrators and nurse practitioners have attended planning sessions this summer at Newport Hospital – and will continue to do so this fall. We receive and monitor weekly advisories from the R.I. Department of Health, the CDC and other federal agencies.

For your information I have enclosed a copy of FAQ's, which all students living on or off campus will receive. Should your son or daughter experience flu like symptoms, we ask that they follow the protocols described. If they contract the flu and reside within a reasonable distance from Newport, we recommend they return home to recover and recuperate. We are making arrangements for those who cannot do so.

Please know that academic administrators have spoken with faculty members about the unique challenges which this winter's flu season will present. Faculty have been encouraged to be practical, flexible and reasonable based on actual circumstances as they occur.

To keep the campus community as well as the external community informed, an up-dated web site has been established. Please consult salve.edu/alerts as well as the links below regularly for further information.

Sincerely,

John Rok
Vice President for Student Affairs

Resources: www.health.ri.gov
www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/
www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html