

Hello colleagues:

The long wait for H1N1 flu vaccinations for students is over. The Health Services office received vaccines yesterday and will begin offering the shots today from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Shots will be administered every Monday and Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on a walk-in basis at the Santa Maria campus health office (W-12) and other times by appointment. Students should call ext. 3212 to make an appointment.

The shots are free. Please alert students to this opportunity! We are providing this info to students via fliers, our Web site, the student portal, and Facebook fan page: (<http://www.facebook.com/#/allanhancockcollege?ref=ts>).

For employees, we have been told our supply of vaccines will arrive “any time.” We are monitoring that shipment frequently, and will let you know the details as soon as we know.

In the meantime, the college has formed a working group to address the many issues surrounding the H1N1 flu, including a protocol to monitor student and staff absences as a gauge of potential flu activity, and a continuing campaign to promote healthy protocols such as frequent hand washing, etc.

We have created a comprehensive Web page that houses all AHC flu information and links to valuable CDC, Santa Barbara County Health and other related agencies. Go to the college homepage and click the black “Fight the Flu” icon.

Santa Barbara County Health has created a hotline (1-888-722-6358), which is quite helpful to students and any others who have specific questions. It is “live” 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; at other times callers can leave a request for a call back, and Spanish-language assistance is available.

Here is a review of best practices to stay healthy.

- Continue to wash your hands often.
- Keep your hands away from your face.
- As a second option, hand sanitizers have been placed in strategic locations around campus in the physical fitness lab, library, Academic Resource Center, Computer Resources Center and the Student Center on the Santa Maria campus; and in the Lompoc Valley Center library and administration/financial aid offices.
- Cough into your elbow or sleeve if a tissue is not available.

Faculty: please be aware of potentially sick students in your classes. Symptoms include fever/cough/headache. CDC guidelines specify that those who are sick should “self isolate” (stay home) until 24 hours after the last sign of fever (without aid of fever reducing medication). Please encourage your students to do so if needed, and work with them regarding assignments, etc. Do not hesitate to refer them to Health Services for a confidential evaluation.

Be assured that we are monitoring the situation and will keep you informed.

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