INFLUENZA LIKE ILLNESS (ILI): ISSUES FOR FACULTY

FACULTY REPORTING PROCEDURES

In tracking influenza like activity at Muhlenberg College, the faculty will be playing an important role. The Pandemic Influenza Response Team is asking faculty for their support in reporting the following:

Procedure for Faculty to Report Unusual Classroom Absences
During flu season, professors may notice higher numbers than usual of student classroom absences. Absenteeism from class is a useful indicator for tracking possible influenza like activity on campus. As such, Muhlenberg College Pandemic Response Team is asking professors to report any absences which exceed what the professor would qualify as typical during the course of the semester. This information should be reported to Carol Shiner Wilson, Dean of the College for Academic Life.

Procedure for Faculty to Report Personal Influenza Like Illness
Faculty should contact their Department Chairs to notify them that they have ILI and will be home (self isolation).

Faculty should also notify Department Chairs if they are unable to work due to needing to stay at home with family members who have ILI.

Department Chairs are requested to notify Barbara Spangler in the Provost’s Office of all faculty and department chair absences due to ILI.

The Provost Office will then report absences to Health Services for purposes of tracking influenza like activity on campus.

STUDENT ABSENTEEISM ISSUES FOR ILI

Social Isolation of students with ILI will be expected. Therefore, student with ILI will be missing class for the duration of the illness until fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication. If the current H1N1 trend continues, most student absences will be approximately one week or less. Students have been instructed that it is their responsibility to contact their professors of missed classes due to ILI.

The Pandemic Influenza Response Team, in turn, is asking that you:

- Monitor students for influenza like illness and reinforce self isolation with your students. Remind them that in balancing public health and class attendance, public health must carry the greatest weight.
- Establish a reasonable timeline and means (email or telephone) through which students can inform you that they have flu-like symptoms and will be missing classes.
- Provide students with a reasonable opportunity to make-up missed work.
- Do not ask or expect to receive a note from Health Services regarding missed classes or any type of physician note regarding absences due to the flu. Again the CDC recommendations are directed towards mitigation; not all individuals with the flu will need to seek medical care.