

## **H1N1 Vaccine and Flu-like illness Update- October 19, 2009**

As seen in the news, a number of health care providers throughout Massachusetts received a small percentage of the total amount of H1N1 vaccine expected in the state this flu season last week. While the initial supply is limited, state and federal health officials have assured us that the supply will grow over the next month so that a large number of people will be able to access the vaccine.

The production of this vaccine has been a delicate process and no one wants to cut any corners. The manufacturers are finding the antigens are producing lower yields than they had hoped for which has slowed the process considerably. They also need to do potency and purity testing as well as other specific tests in order to ensure the safety of the production of this vaccine. Therefore, Boston Public Health Commission is recommending that most universities and colleges look to receiving the H1N1 vaccine no earlier than mid-November.

Students have flu-like illness on Northeastern campus and throughout Boston. It is imperative we all remember to continue to protect ourselves, prevent others from getting sick, and encourage healthy behaviors (i.e. hand washing).