

Flu-like illness and H1N1 Vaccine Update –October 13, 2009

Flu-like illness is present on Northeastern campus and has been generally mild thus far. Although we wish we could predict how much longer it will be around, we can't. The flu season is unpredictable but we do know that usually the seasonal flu season lasts until May. Therefore it is important for the Northeastern community to continue their excellent efforts at cough etiquette and hand washing to decrease the spread of flu-like illness. Information has been distributed on campus and remains available on our website regarding prevention, caring for yourself, and vaccination clinics.

By the end of last week (October 9th), some Massachusetts health care providers had received small quantities of H1N1 vaccine. These quantities represent a small percentage of the total amount of H1N1 vaccine expected in the state this flu season. More vaccine is expected from the federal government each week to build on those quantities and expand that distribution. The distribution has been divided into tiers dependent on priority risk groups. Colleges are in the 3rd tier to receive the H1N1 vaccine coming after children under 18 years old, pregnant women, health care workers, and contacts of pregnant women in 3rd trimester. Delivery of H1N1 vaccine is expected in early to mid November. Once the vaccine is received here at Northeastern, H1N1 vaccination clinics will be scheduled and dates and times communicated to the NU community. We are expecting to hold these clinics in November and December. Vaccine information sheets (VIS) about the H1N1 vaccine are now available.