

Monday, September 07, 2009

Dear Northeastern University Students and Parents,

In light of the current H1N1 (swine) flu pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has widened the recommendations for use of the Pneumococcal Vaccine in adults. This is due to the significantly increased chance of developing a bacterial pneumonia after infection with influenza. The pneumococcal vaccine acts to lessen this risk by providing protection against 23 of the most common types of the bacteria *Streptococcus Pneumoniae*. The CDC now recommends PPV (pneumonia) vaccine for individuals in the following categories:

- All adults 65 years old and older;
- Anyone 2-64 years of age who has a long-term health problem such as: heart disease, lung disease, sickle cell disease, diabetes, alcoholism, cirrhosis, cochlear implants or leaks of cerebrospinal fluid;
- Anyone 2-64 years of age who has a disease or condition that lowers the body's resistance to infection, such as: Hodgkin's disease; lymphoma or leukemia; kidney failure; multiple myeloma; nephritic syndrome; HIV infection or AIDS; damaged spleen, or no spleen; organ transplant.
- Anyone 2-64 years of age who is taking a drug or treatment that lowers the body's resistance to infection, such as: long term steroids, certain cancer drugs, radiation therapy; and
- **Any adult 19 – 64 years of age who is a smoker or who has asthma.**

If you or your student falls into any of these categories we strongly recommend that you consider vaccination with the PPV (pneumonia) vaccine. University Health and Counseling Services (UHCS) will provide this vaccine to students who fit into these categories. The cost of the vaccination and administration is \$50.00 and can be paid by Husky Card or at the Cashier's Office prior to your appointment. Feel free to call UHCS at 617-373-2772 to make an appointment or if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Peter Doyle MD

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