Washington University’s Planning and Response to the H1N1 Influenza Outbreak

May 4, 2009
Situation as of May 3, 2009

- 787 confirmed cases in seventeen countries (20 deaths)
- 226 confirmed cases in 30 states (1 death)
- One confirmed and four probable cases in western MO
- No known cases in St. Louis
H1N1 Knowns/Unknowns

- Risk to human health uncertain
  - Novel virus, ?higher severity Mexico, young adults sick
- Aggressive response
  - WHO pandemic alert, CDC stockpile
- Cautious optimism
  - Severity, transmission, summer
- Uncertainties
  - Public Health response to local cases, return in fall
- Vaccine
  - None now, should be available in the fall
- Antiviral medications
  - Probably work, fed/state stockpiles
Washington University’s Emergency Planning and Response Structure

- Executive Leadership Team
- Crisis Management Team
- Emerging Infectious Disease Task Force
Responsibilities of the Emerging Infectious Disease Task Force

- Daily assessment of the evolving situation and potential impacts
- Monitoring activities of other institutions of higher education across the country
- Developing recommendations for WUSTL response and actions
- Providing guidance on all internal and external communications
- Implementing decisions approved by the Executive Leadership Team
Actions to Date

- Requested a review and update of internal department pandemic flu plans
- Requested an ongoing review of where WUSTL students are currently studying abroad
- Requested a review of all study-abroad programs planned for this summer
Actions to Date

- Reviewed and strengthened collaboration with WUSM and BJC
- Provided guidance on the dissemination of information to the Washington University community.
- Recommended purchase of additional supplies for “first responders”
The Future

• This situation is evolving and needs to be monitored continually
• We will continue to rely on guidance from the CDC, state and local health departments, WUSM and BJC
• We will continue to monitor the response of other institutions of higher education
Potential Acute Decisions

- Impact on final exams, pre-graduation events and commencement
- Impact on other study abroad programs
- Need to assist students who are currently studying abroad
- Need to modify summer activities and conferences on campus.
- Possible (probable?) re-emergence in the fall
Questions?
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