

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING FLU FOR STUDENTS**

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### **SHOULD I GET A SEASONAL FLU VACCINE?**

We strongly recommend that you get the seasonal flu vaccine. Some clinical sites may not allow people to work if they have not been vaccinated. Many of the clinical sites will provide this for students at no charge. The Student Insurance Office is working on a flu shot clinic on campus in the coming weeks for a discounted rate. Please watch for announcements.

### **WHAT IF I BECOME ILL AT CLINIC?**

You should follow the CDC guidelines and go home, after talking with your supervisor. The clinical sites have different procedures in place. Check with your supervisor to see whether or not the site has testing to document a flu infection. Contact your clinical coordinator as soon as possible.

Many clinical sites will set return to work policies. Some sites have a policy that allows you to return to work if you have been 24 hours without a fever (without antipyretic medications). Other sites have enacted the 7 day policy. **You must check with your supervisor and follow the guidelines for your site.** The current CDC guidelines (as of 9/20/09) are as follows:

- Stay home for 24-48 hours after last fever WITHOUT anti-pyretics
- Wear a mask for 7 days from time of symptom onset

### **WHO WILL PAY FOR TESTING AND TREATMENT?**

There is NOT one single answer. Some clinical sites (e.g. The Children's Hospital) will pay for testing and treatment for all workers including students. Other sites will process expenses through workers' compensation. Please consult your supervisor for appropriate protocol at your clinical site. If you feel you have a work related illness, follow appropriate procedures for filing a workers' compensation claim. Workers compensation for the flu may be difficult because you will have to document specific exposure at work. If a workers compensation claim is denied, your health insurance may apply, see below.

### **WHAT IF I HAVE THE SCHOOL'S INSURANCE POLICY?**

Testing: If you are being tested because you have symptoms, the insurance would likely consider this a medical necessity. Some of the specific tests are expensive and checking in advance would be prudent.

Treatment: Tamiflu is a preferred drug on the Advantage Formulary and will be covered under the appropriate co-pay. The co-pay will likely be \$40.

### **WHAT IF I MISS CLASS**

You should notify your academic advisor and/or clinical coordinator of any absence for illness. If you have to miss a significant part of a clinical rotation, your clinical coordinators will work with you to come up with a remediation plan. Should you miss a large amount of didactic coursework, we will consider remediation on an individual basis.

### **WHAT ABOUT H1N1 VACCINE?**

We will notify you as soon as we have information about vaccine availability. Many clinical sites plan to provide the vaccine at no charge to students.