

September 23, 2009

Dear ACC Staff,

Each and every day, I witness the resiliency, adaptability and compassion of the Anne Carlsen Center family. These qualities were apparent during the flood and evacuation of this past spring, and as another challenge confronts us—the threat of H1N1 Influenza—I am, once again, heartened by the response.

Thankfully, no ACC students, clients, or staff has contracted H1N1, a new influenza virus causing illness across the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the 2009 H1N1 flu “has caused greater disease burden in people younger than 25 years of age than older people.” Because youth are more vulnerable to this virus, we are taking an active and thorough approach to protecting the children and young adults we serve—many of whom, as you know, are considered medically fragile.

You received a memo recently from Nursing Director Bette Johnson regarding restrictions on visitors to the ACC campus and restrictions on certain student outings. In addition, outpatient therapy clients and day students are now being screened for a fever of greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit and a respiratory infection (such as a sore throat, cough, or runny nose) before being allowed to join other students on campus. We appreciate your assistance in carrying out these important steps. While some of these precautions may seem overzealous—be assured, each action has been well thought out and will help us protect the individuals who call ACC home.

We ask that you be ready and willing to stay home if you become ill. You’ll find a variety of valuable flu-related tips at www.cdc.gov. Please continue to take steps to help avoid contracting the flu virus, such as washing your hands often with soap and water, using alcohol-based hand sanitizers, and getting the flu vaccine.

We are expecting, within the next couple of weeks, to receive doses of the seasonal flu vaccine for staff. An employee vaccination clinic will be set up, and the vaccine will be free of charge. Doses of H1N1 flu vaccine have also been ordered. When they arrive, you’ll be notified of when and where the employee

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vaccination clinic will be held. First priority for these flu vaccines will be direct-care staff, with remaining doses distributed using a tier-based system.

As the situation with H1N1 Influenza evolves, we ask for your continued cooperation and patience. The guidelines and recommendations we issue may change over time, as we learn more about this new virus and its potential impact. Please check our Center Web site, www.annecenter.org, for daily updates on the Influenza response at ACC. Look for the "H1N1 Information" link on the home page. This new section of the Web site will feature a variety of information about ACC's flu plan, as well as an "ACC Staff" page, which will offer a variety of timely communications and resources.

Another method supervisors will use to communicate updates will be via your Center e-mail account. Try to check your in-box as often as you can.

Thank you for being careful, cautious, and proactive in the fight against H1N1. Your teamwork and talents are vital in protecting our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric M. Monson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric Monson
Anne Carlsen Center
Interim CEO