

Campus Pandemic Committee

Student Services Subgroup Report (Final)

Introduction

Members of the Student Services Subgroup* met on the morning of July 30. Prior to the meeting, e-mail messages were exchanged in an effort to communicate quickly and before members went on vacation. There are several concerns and ideas raised:

- a. Any work done by this committee will be related to and have an impact on the work of other subgroups, particularly the Communications subgroup.
- b. Any message (or Plan) to/for students re the pandemic and subsequent procedures must be clear, consistent, and concise.
- c. We do not wish to alarm the student population unduly, only act responsibly in our leadership capacity.
- d. Continuous student input will be crucial to the work of the Pandemic Committee.
- e. Once a final plan has been developed and is in place, salient points must be made available to all students in a most effective way. This will require the use of all available communication sources on the campus.
- f. Bulleted points from the Plan should be distributed in paper and web formats.
- g. A “planned response” for those outside the campus should be developed and it should made clear who the point person will be for the Press.

Ideas

The following are a list of ideas that should, in some way, be a part of the Campus’ Pandemic Plan. The Student Services Subgroup recognizes the need for other campus groups and outside agencies to be a part of these ideas if they are to be implemented.

A. Communication to New Students, Continuing Students and Families

1. Make general announcement at all new student orientations and parent orientations (Ego, Koenig, White, Riquier).
2. Train student leaders to handle questions related to the Pandemic and UCONN/Stamford’s response to it (White, Riquier).
3. Utilize FYE classes to disseminate information /the Plan.
4. Use class syllabi to disseminate pertinent information/the Plan.
5. Utilize the monitors, the scrolling bar in Concourse, and list serves. (Web person?)
6. Utilize the Grapevine to disseminate information. (Riquier)
7. Make sure that there is always an up to date telephone voice recording for those who do not use/have Internet. (Proulx)
8. Consider utilizing TWITTER.
9. Utilize the student newspaper/newsletter. (SGA/club?)
10. Utilize bulletin boards and garage to disseminate information. (White/SGA).

B. Programs & Services

There should be a series of programs and services offered on the campus to educate the campus population about the epidemic. These programs/services should be developed to curtail the number of cases that will occur on campus. They also should offer information on safety precautions/practices for day-to-day operations.

1. Develop a “pandemic alert” system that will alert students, faculty, and staff via available communication sources on the severity of the flu (Committee).
2. Early in the semester (of classes), sponsor an all-day “Pandemic Fair” on the Concourse similar to health fairs offered in the past (Committee). The following would be included in the Fair:
 - a. Educational Science display about the swine flu and what it is exactly (ex. How is it spread?).
 - b. Information from the Health Department (healthy hand washing)
 - c. Personnel from the Health Dept. at information tables
 - d. Nurse on hand to answer health questions (may be able to use our Nursing program for this)
 - e. Give sample Purell handouts. Information tag can be attached.
 - f. Info on the vaccine (and when/if the vaccines will be available on campus).
 - g. Leave key table information available for others to see who did not attend the Fair.
 - h. Offer information on where students can seek help for stress-related issues associated with the pandemic. (Perrone)
 - i. Develop a catch phrase that encapsulates all pandemic-related information (For example, **PANDEMIC EDUCATION NEWS or UPDATES**). Combine it with a logo, color, lettering that will be consistent.
3. At all events (workshops, gatherings, panels, etc), use a few minutes to educate the audience on some issue(s) related to the pandemic.

C. Resources

The following are resources that can be helpful in addressing problems/concerns associated with the pandemic.

1. Health Department
2. Media (including student papers, NY Times)
3. State Departments
4. Storrs
5. Web (ours and the WWW, including the CDC)
6. Students (often will have information gained from living at home)
7. Local School Boards
8. Departments/Divisions at Storrs (Student Services/Continuing Studies, etc.)

D. Safety Precautions

Education is the best precaution when dealing with the Swine Flu pandemic. Ideas have been given preciously as to how to address educating the populace. The following are additional ideas:

1. For staff and faculty: Ask students not to come to appointment if they are ill.
2. Have UCONN/Stamford serve as a site for the delivery of flu/H1N1 vaccines. Work with the Health Department to arrange.
3. Have all members of the community learn the healthy hand washing procedure and how to cough so as not to spread germs.
4. Encourage population to discuss getting the flu shot with their physicians.
5. Make sure all students have the opportunity to take the vaccine, once it is available.
6. Do a “no hand shake” campaign for all meetings, events, etc.
7. Consider curtailing all large gatherings/activities when/if flu cases peak.
8. Keep information flowing between the Health Department and the campus on any suggested safety precautions.
9. Make certain that Purell dispensers are placed strategically around the campus, right from the beginning of classes.
10. Consider keyboard covers for all public computers.

Conclusion

Members of the Pandemic Student Services Subgroup are available to discuss and explain any of the items in this report. A timeline is crucial for the success of a Plan. We should be underway with the writing immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chair
Pandemic Student Services Subgroup
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***Members of the Subgroup**

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