Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s):

Students with our summer academic programs have been experiencing influenza-like illness. H1N1 novel influenza A virus is likely circulating in our community. The MN Department of Health is considering influenza like illnesses that are circulating now to be probable H1N1 cases. The influenza like illness usually begins with a fever higher than 100 and will progress to include cough, sore throat, or other respiratory symptoms.

When students in any of the programs spiked a fever over 100 degrees and were experiencing either a cough and/or sore throat they were asked to rest and drink plenty of fluids. If symptoms persist we are taking them to the clinic and antivirals are given if indicated. We are following the recommendations for summer camps from the Minnesota Department of Health.

We have notified parents of sick students and are caring for the sick students by moving them to single rooms, monitoring their symptoms regularly, providing fluids and meals in their rooms and educating them on self-care and warning signs as well as how to prevent spreading. If requested, we have made proper arrangements with students and professors to complete the needed work that would help the student satisfy credit requirements for the program.

We are taking great strides to prevent spreading. We have provided information about how to prevent spreading; we have provided hand sanitizer and sanitizer wipes in the dorms and have been promoted hand washing. In addition, we have asked students who were coughing to wear masks. For more information regarding Carleton’s actions, please visit the Carleton and Pandemic flu site.

I have been in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health and also members of the Pandemic Flu Preparedness Team to ensure that we were handling all situations correctly. After a conference call with the Minnesota Department of Health, they encouraged us to continue in the same direction.

To learn more about H1N1 novel influenza A, I encourage you to go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Minnesota Department of Health website.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Updike
Director of Summer Academic Programs
www.carleton.edu/summer

Carleton College
One North College Street
Northfield, MN 55057

Phone: 507-222-4098
Fax: 507-222-4540