WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: President Bruce Shepard by Vice President Eileen V. Coughlin

DATE: October 9, 2009

SUBJECT: **H1N1 Flu Update**

PURPOSE: Information Item

Purpose of Submittal:

To provide an update to the Board on the H1N1 flu.

Supporting Information:

In order to prepare for a possible outbreak of H1N1 flu on campus, Western's staff has conducted the following preparations:

Communication

- Western's flu information site went live on Thursday, September 10. A link to the site is available on the WWU homepage. The site will be regularly updated.
- Letters from Dr. Gibson to students and faculty/staff re: flu prevention were sent via e-mail on Thursday, September 10.
- A letter from Dr. Gibson to parents re: flu prevention efforts at Western was sent via e-mail on Monday, September 14.
- A letter from Provost Catherine Riordan providing guidelines re: flu-related disruptions and student absences was sent to all faculty on Tuesday, September 15.
- Flu SEASON posters regarding prevention have been posted around campus, in WTA buses, and on digital message boards in the Viking Union, Student Recreation Center and Arntzen Hall.
- The Student Health Center has developed a flu blog that will be updated on a regular basis by Dr. Gibson – http://www.wwu.edu/chw/student_health/flu_blog.shtml.
- The Student Health Center is monitoring the numbers of suspected flu cases and reporting them to the Whatcom County Health Department

Preventive Approaches

- Facilities Management has been installing hand sanitizer dispensers in academic buildings, computer labs and public areas. Dispensers are still being installed as new orders arrive.
- The Student Health Center offered a limited number of seasonal flu shots to students and faculty/staff (at a cost of $18) on September 25. The university Web sites provide information on alternative sites.

- Students and staff who are at high risk will be vaccinated with the first distribution of the H1N1 flu vaccine.
- The Student Health Center will offer H1N1 flu shots to students (at no cost) in mid- to late-October, or when it becomes available.

Additional Updates

- The Student Health Center has provided “flu kits” to ill students free of charge. The kits contain a mask, hand sanitizer, thermometer, tissues, fever-reducing medication, cough drops, throat lozenges, and Gatorade powder packets.
- University Residences is holding a limited number of rooms for students, where relocation is deemed necessary due to the illness of a roommate.
- Business and Financial Affairs has established a common project code, in an effort to capture as many direct costs of H1N1 flu as possible.