

Briefing Document – Pandemic Preparedness Update of January 21, 2010

Summary: The presence of H1N1 flu at McGill University has declined steadily since the peak of the second wave in the fall and the numbers of staff, students and Faculty reporting ill at the University have been consistently low since the time of the last report. On January 7, 2010, the Québec Director of Public Health announced the end of the second wave of Influenza A (H1N1) in the province. As a result, the University is returning to normal operating procedures and the present report constitutes the final update. The University will remain vigilant and is prepared to re-mobilize in the event that another pandemic wave occurs.

Pandemic Planning

- On January 7, 2010, the Government of Québec distributed a communiqué officially announcing the end of the second wave of Influenza A (H1N1) in the province and advising that the measures instituted to combat H1N1 need no longer be applied. As instructed by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, McGill will return to normal operating procedures for courses and for reporting of absences for staff and students.
- Indicators of the presence of the H1N1 flu in the community are summarized in the attached Appendix. Consistent with reports from across North America, the number of cases of H1N1 and rates of absenteeism have declined significantly over the past month; i.e., since the beginning of 2010: no new cases have been reported by Faculty members or in student Residences; no new diagnoses of H1N1 have been made in the Student Health Services; the rate of absenteeism in support staff has dropped to levels last seen before the onset of the second wave; and the number of self-reports by students has significantly decreased.
- The Pandemic Contingency Planning Group (PCPG) held its final meeting on January 19, 2010. The University's H1N1-related activities over the past nine months, as well as lessons learned, were reviewed with the goal of using this experience to help improve pandemic and general emergency preparedness at McGill.
- The University will remain vigilant and is fully prepared to re-mobilize in the event of an occurrence of a third wave or other similar event.

Communications

- An announcement to all members of the McGill community from the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) and the Associate Vice-Principal (University Services) signalling the university's return to normal operating procedures has been drafted and will be distributed via a mass email. The announcement will also be posted on the McGill website.
- Communications will continue to encourage the most effective measures for preventing the spread of infectious diseases including vaccinations, hand-washing, appropriate sneezing/coughing etiquette, and staying at home when ill.

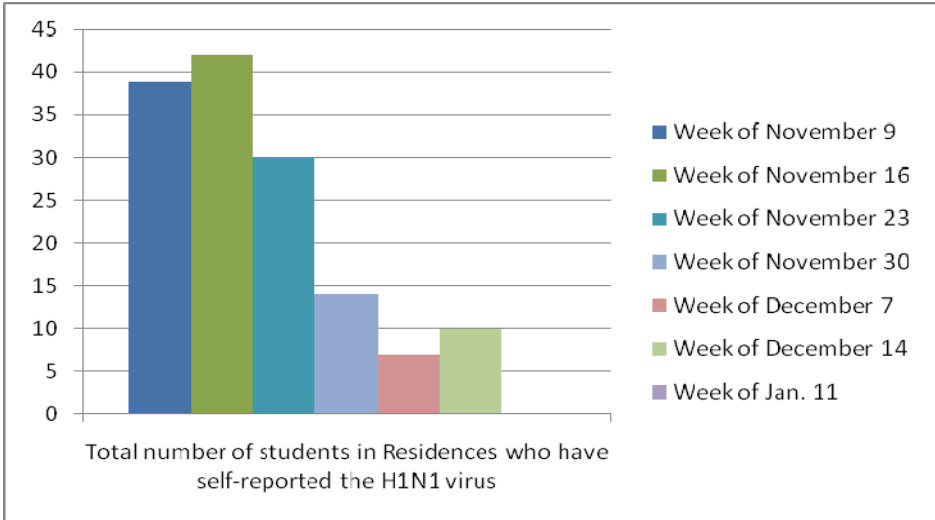
Vaccinations

- Special H1N1 vaccination centres located throughout Quebec were closed as of December 18, 2009.
- We have informed the staff and students at McGill that vaccinations for the seasonal flu are now available, and those for H1N1 continue to be available through CLSCs and local clinics.

Appendix: Indicators of Flu in the McGill Community

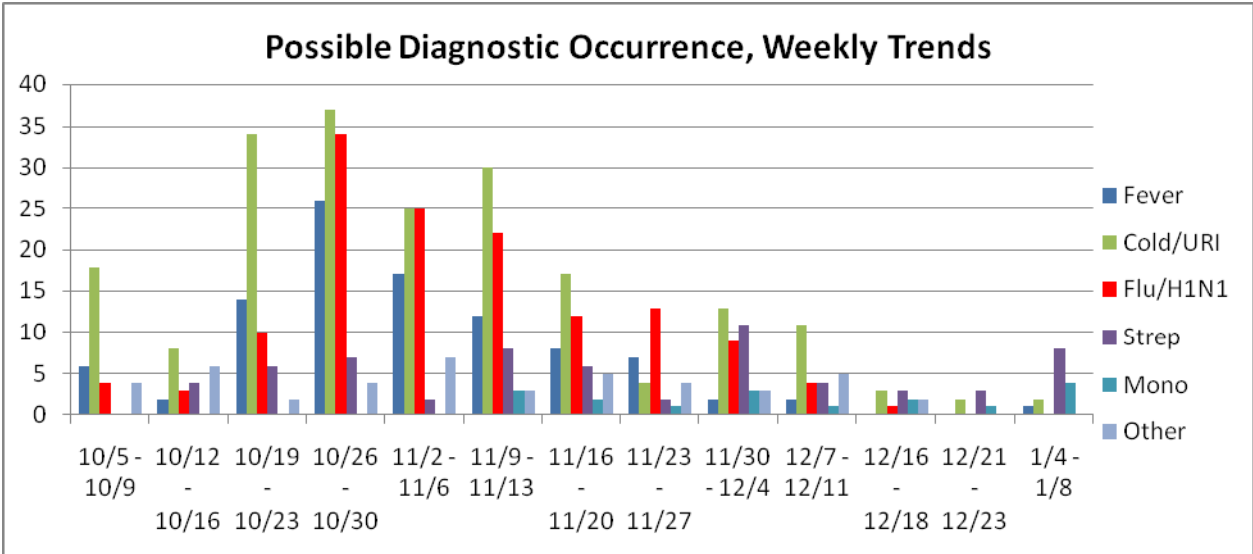
Residences

- The graph below summarizes the occurrence of student flu-like illness rates in residences. Since October 28 a total of approximately 206 H1N1 cases have been reported in McGill residences.
- The total number of students in residences ill with H1N1 symptoms in any given week peaked at 42 in the week of November 16.
- Following a slight increase in the total number of cases reported the week of December 14, the numbers dipped to zero over the holidays. No active cases have been reported in 2010.



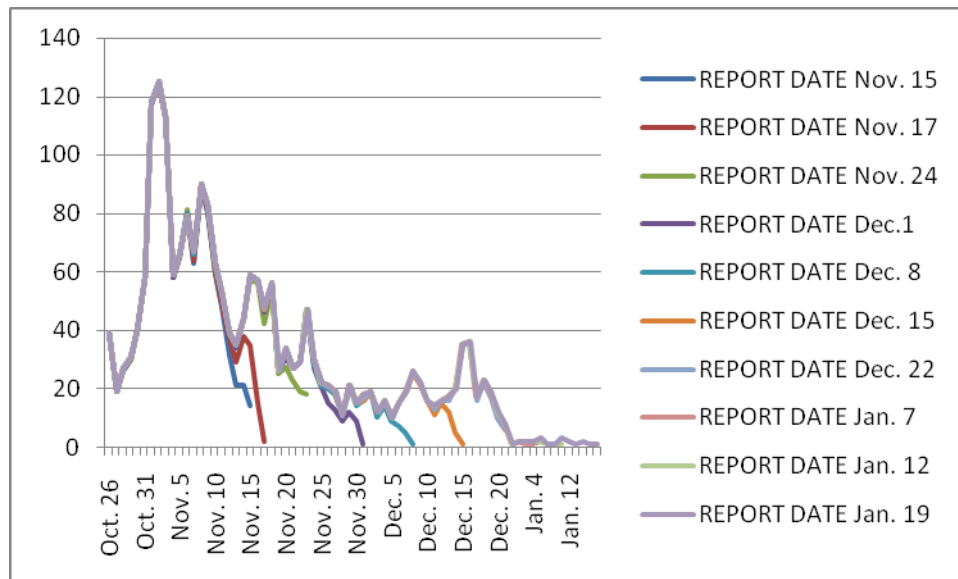
Visits to Student Health Services

- The statistics in the graph below have been reported by Student Health Services for visits to the clinics. The number of H1N1-related visits to Student Health Services has remained below 10 per week since the week of December 7. No new H1N1 cases have been diagnosed since December 21.



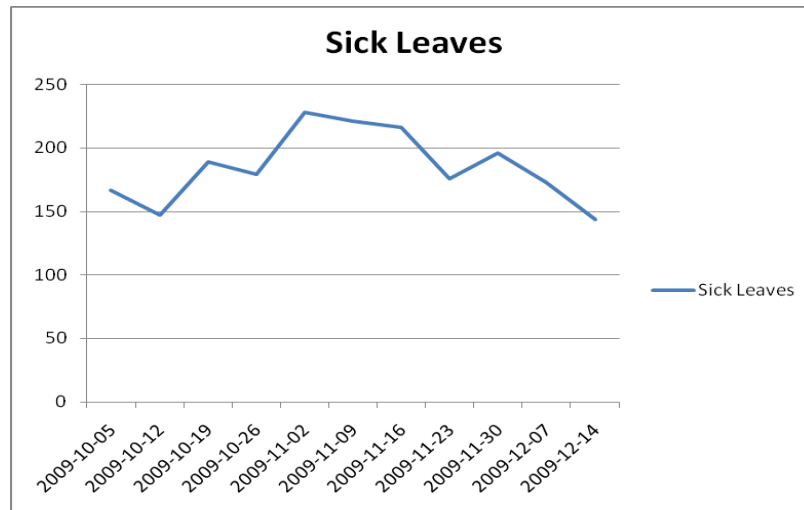
Student Self-reporting

- The data in the figure below indicate the number of students who self-reported H1N1 and the approximate date of the onset of symptoms. The total number of students who have self-reported H1N1 symptoms to date is approximately 2181, which represents 6.7% of the student population.
- At its peak in the first week of November, the total number of students self-reporting H1N1 symptoms in a single week was 626, which is less than 2% of the total student population. The latest statistics indicate that less than ten students per week have been reporting ill with H1N1 since January 1, 2010 (nine students in the week of January 4 and eight in the week of January 11).



Administrative and Support Staff

- The data summarized in the figure below have been reported by McGill Human Resources. They represent the number of non-academic staff reporting absent due to all illnesses, including H1N1-related symptoms. Privacy regulations prevent specific reporting according to cause of absence.
- The total number of staff reporting sick at any time between October 5 and December 18 was approximately 1608. This represents approximately 51% of McGill's administrative and support staff population.
- The total number of staff reporting ill in the space of a week reached a peak of 222 (6.1%) in the week of November 2, 2009 and has declined steadily since that date. The latest data (reported January 18) indicates the number on sick leave the week of December 14 was 144 (4.6%) – the lowest number reporting ill since the beginning of the reporting period.



Faculty

- A total of 25 Faculty members self-reported having symptoms of H1N1. No new cases have been reported since December 20.
- At no time did these numbers exceed 0.1% of the total number of faculty members at McGill.