Date: September 1, 2009
To: Iowa Community Colleges
    Community College Presidents
    Community College Chief Student Services Administrators
    Community College Staff
From: Judy Jeffrey, Director, Iowa Department of Education
      Tom Newton, Director, Iowa Department of Public Health
Re: Community College Planning Resources for the 2009-2010 Influenza Season

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Education has identified and developed the following materials to assist Iowa community college officials in their 2009-2010 influenza season planning. Please review and consider the information and recommendations presented below as you develop influenza-related initiatives in your facilities.

Resources prepared by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
1) Technical Report on CDC Guidance for Responses to Flu for Institutions of Higher Education during the 2009-2010 Academic Year
   - Link to report: [http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/institutions/guidance/technical.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/institutions/guidance/technical.htm)
   - The report is divided into two sections:
     - Recommendations for conditions of “similar severity as in Spring 2009”
     - Recommendations for conditions of “increased severity”
   - Currently the severity of illness associated with the circulating strains of influenza is similar to spring 2009, and therefore DE and IDPH ask that you consider the first set of recommendations. Should the severity increase, DE and IDPH will issue additional communications to schools recommending a shift to the more conservative “increased severity” recommendations.

2) Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Institutions of Higher Education
   - Toolkit available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/institutions/toolkit/](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/institutions/toolkit/)
   - The toolkit contains samples of the following:
     - Question and answer documents
     - Fact sheets for students, faculty and staff
     - Posters that can be displayed in college/university facilities
     - Template informational letters and announcements that schools can distribute to students, faculty, staff, and parents
     - Text messages for students, faculty, staff, and parents

Resources prepared by IDPH and DE:
3) Environmental cleaning and disinfection resources for influenza, including:
   - General use fact sheet
   - Quick guide for schools
     - Resources available at: [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/schools.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/schools.asp)
     - These documents provide recommendations for prioritizing cleaning efforts and clarify the types of cleaning products appropriate for influenza.
4) Influenza A (H1N1) Fact Sheet for the Community Colleges
   ● Accessible at: http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/schools.asp

Additional Resources
5) Child Care Resources for Novel Influenza A (H1N1)
   ● IDPH has also developed recommendations for Child Care Businesses in partnership with the Iowa Department of Human Services. These resources can be accessed at: http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/schools.asp
6) Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Guidance for Businesses
   ● IDPH has also developed recommendations Iowa businesses in partnership with the Safeguard Iowa Partnership. Accessible at: http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/schools.asp
7) CDC Seasonal flu vaccine information and links to vaccine information statements accessible at: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm
8) Face masks. General Use of Face-Masks and Respirators to Prevent Influenza, May 2009, accessible at: http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/common/pdf/h1n1_guidelines_on_masks_respirators.pdf
   Interim Recommendations for Facemask and Respirator use to reduce influenza transmission, August 2009, accessible at: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/masks.htm
9) The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced circumstances in which schools and community organizations may continue to provide reimbursable meals to low-income children during school closures related to novel influenza A (H1N1). The DE will contact food authorities with this information.

This flu season the terminology anticipated is influenza-like illness (ILI), meaning a fever (oral 100°F or greater), and cough, and/or sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue in the absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza. Please continually check for the influenza-like illnesses (ILI) updates at CDC accessible at: http://www.cdc.gov. The CDC is a reliable, current information source and you may sign up for emails alerting you of updates.

If you have not done so, we strongly encourage you to collaborate with your local public health department on your influenza planning activities. If you have questions about novel influenza A (H1N1) vaccine distribution in your community, please contact your local public health department.

Finally, we encourage you to access the IDPH web site frequently for Iowa-specific updates. The IDPH influenza website contains Higher Education Guidance. All of the resources outlined in this memorandum are available on that web page http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/schools.asp

If you have any questions, please contact the IDPH Center for Acute Disease Prevention at 800-362-2736.

We appreciate your commitment to the health, safety, and education of our students.