



### Behrend Sports

- Golf AMCC Championship preview
- Volleyball defeats Grove City



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# BEHREND BEACON

PENN STATE ERIE, THE BEHREND COLLEGE

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## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

# Swine Flu: Fact and Fiction

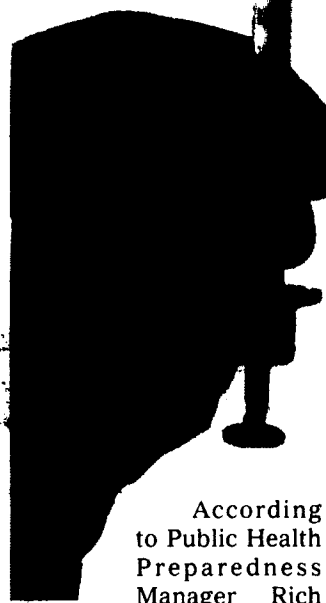
CHRISTINE NEWBY  
managing editor

Four reported cases of the H1N1 "Swine Flu" at Penn State Behrend have spawned rumors, false information, and wild speculation around campus.

Accounts of the illness's mortality rate, recovery time, and the effect it will have on the college may change depending on who one speaks to. Local health professionals, though, are more certain on the details of this pandemic.

**We are all going to die from Swine Flu.**

People are ten times less likely to die from Swine Flu than the seasonal flu.



According to Public Health Preparedness Manager Rich Knecht, the current mortality rate of the 2009 H1N1 virus is 0.001 percent. The mortality rate for the seasonal flu is .01 percent.

Charlotte Berringer, Director of Community Health for the Erie County Health Department said that 36,000 deaths occur per year in the United States for the seasonal flu.

**H1N1 spreads faster than seasonal flu.**

"In the United States, from April to the middle of June, the H1N1 virus crossed six

regions across the world," Berringer said. "Any bug to spread rapidly is a concern. In a few months, it was all over the world."

Berringer said that in her 30 year career in the health field, she has never seen a bug spread so fast.

**There are already hundreds of Swine Flu cases in Erie County.**

There have been 23 confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus in Erie County, and 42 probable cases, between the end of May and Sept. 26.

At Penn State Behrend, there have been only four cases of the H1N1 virus confirmed. Seven other students tested positive for Type A influenza, but there is no official word on whether they are positive for H1N1.

**College students are more susceptible to H1N1.**

While the seasonal flu primarily causes deaths in the older population, the Swine Flu has been swarming the younger population.

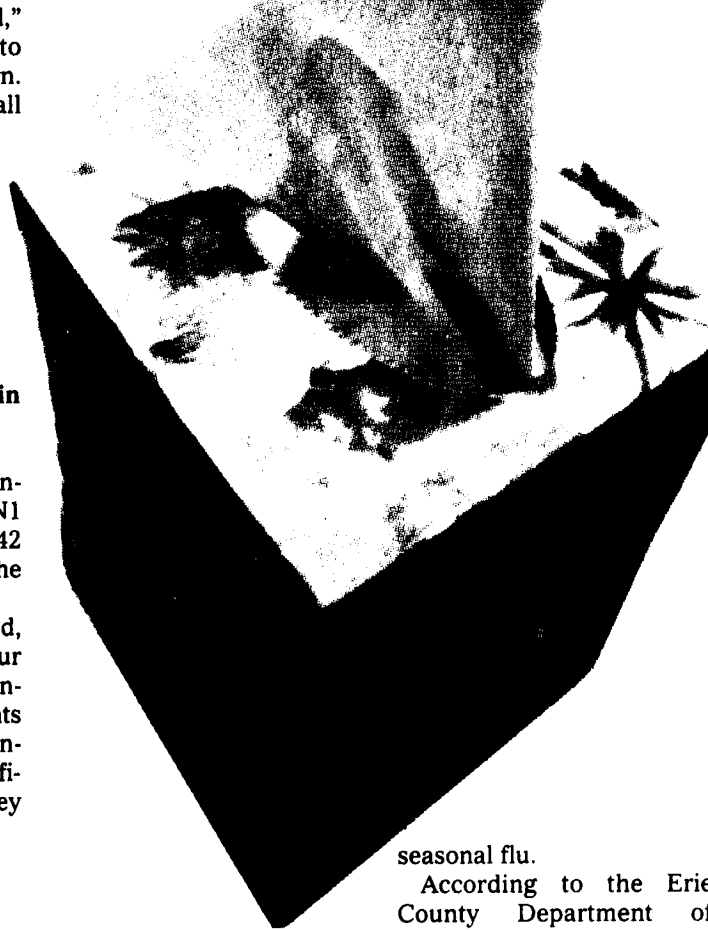
"Most of the confirmed cases both locally, statewide, and across the nation are infants to 24-year-olds," Berringer said. "Twenty-five percent of the (H1N1) deaths have been among younger, healthy children and young adults."

**Behrend is going to shut down.**

If the spread of Swine Flu continues to extremes this is a possibility; however, the college will not shut down because of four cases.

Berringer says that in the scenario that the flu reaches hundreds of students, the college may make this decision.

"The college administration would talk to the local and state health departments and the state system of higher education about what the college would do," Berringer said.



**There is a vaccination for Swine Flu.**

According to Berringer that there are two vaccines: a nasal spray and injection. The nasal spray will be out to the public first.

According to Erie County health officials, the spray will be released as early as mid-October.

"There will be 1.3 million doses nationwide," said Berringer. "Since there is a limited quantity, most of the first doses will be to ages five to nine because they need two doses."

Behrend students are also one of the first priority groups to get the vaccine because of the age of students.

She also said that by the end of October, the injection vaccine will be available to local healthcare providers.

**The H1N1 vaccination provides protection for the seasonal flu.**

The H1N1 vaccination does not protect against the

seasonal flu.

According to the Erie County Department of Health, patients must get separate vaccines for full protection.

"I strongly suggest for people to get the H1N1 vaccination," Berringer said.

**Once you are infected by Swine Flu, you cannot get it a again.**

After catching Swine Flu, you can't get the virus a second time.

However, there is a chance that someone can get the seasonal flu a couple times.

"There are three other strands of flu circulating (besides H1N1)," she says. "If you are infected with one (strand), you are not protected from the other two."

**You are contagious only when you notice symptoms.**

"You are contagious one day before you have symptoms," Berringer said.

According to the H1N1inPA.com, a person will be contagious up to seven days after the first day of being contagious.

## Swine Flu: By the Numbers

# 99

Percent of the cases that go to the State Public Health Lab are the 2009 influenza A

(H1N1) virus.

# 42

Probable cases of the 2009 H1N1 virus in Erie County from May 31-Sept. 26.

# 25

Percent of the 2009 H1N1 deaths has been among young healthy children and young adults.

# 23

Confirmed cases of the 2009 H1N1 virus in Erie County from May 31-Sept. 26.

# 10

Times more likely to die from seasonal flu than the 2009 H1N1 virus.

# 4

Confirmed cases of the 2009 H1N1 virus at Behrend.

# 3

Other strands of flu circulating besides the swine flu.

# 1

Number of days that one is contagious before symptoms even appear.

## RENOVATIONS

# New seating, other improvements coming to Reed 117

MIKE O. WEHRER  
news editor

University Officials have nearly finalized plans to completely renovate Reed 117.

Students have already begun to see many of the changes to for the Reed Union Building. Such as the much-improved bookstore and new offices, and the moving of the RUB information desk to the Student Activities office.

The next changes to impact students' use of Reed will be the new student lounge downstairs and the renovations to Reed 117, where students enjoy movies and other entertainment courtesy of the Lion Entertainment Board and other student groups.

Reed 117 was the second most popular choice among students who responded to the facility fee poll last year.

Unlike the proposed convenience store, the renovations to Reed 117 and the student lounge are fairly far along in their respective approval processes, according to SGA President Brad Kovalcik.

The proposed convenience store is still undergoing a feasibility study to determine what form the store would take if one is constructed at Behrend.

Both Reed 117 and the student lounge have passed the feasibility phase and will be going out for bid in November.

The bidding process will continue through January, and construction will begin in May 2010, and construction on both projects is expected to be

See Reed 117 on page 3

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

# Contingency plan devised for students with swine flu

ALLY ORLANDO  
news editor

Behrend Housing and Food Services has devised a contingency plan for students who have been infected with the H1N1 virus.

Upon becoming infected, there are several options a student has to choose from. For students who live near campus or are able to make the trip, they may return home in order to isolate themselves until they are well. Because a trip home is more inconvenient for students who live far from campus or have come from distant parts of the world, they will be given further options.

"We are allowing [the students who test positively for swine flu] to stay in their rooms," says Randy Geering, Director of Housing and Food Services. "We feel that they will not want to move to a larger uncomfortable space that does not have any of their comforts such as TV and computer."

Roommates of infected students are given a few courses of action as well.

Until their ill roommate is ready to return, they may temporarily relocate with a willing friend who lives on campus, or they may room with a Residence Assistant. They are also permitted to remain in their own room if they so choose.

According to Geering, there are 19 available spaces with Residence Assistants—12 male and 7 female.

See Swine Flu on page 3

## WATER POLO

# Men's water polo rebuilding dismantled team

RACHELLE THOMPSON  
staff writer

For the 2009 Behrend men's water polo team, this year is all about rebuilding.

Despite the team's 0-7 record and losing all but four players last year, head coach Joe Tristan isn't worried about his team's struggles.

"This season is about rebuilding, and I don't want to talk about the past," Tristan said. "That's why it's in the past, yeah, it would have been great to come back with what we had, but we have character now. We move on. It doesn't matter who is on the team—we're going to play no matter what."

The team starts their workweek on Monday night and it continues through Saturday morning.

The players will practice for typi-

cally two hours; this will happen every Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights. Tuesday and Thursday practices are different.

The team begins at 6:30 a.m. and consists of lifting and pool drills. Then, they must come back at night for their usual practice.

"What's great about these players is that they don't complain," Tristan said. "They are hard-working and they do what they are asked, not only do they work hard at practice, but out of the pool they are continuously working at becoming better players. Some [of them] will ask for game tape so they can see [their] mistakes and try to get better."

Another way the team is rebuilding themselves is by new players stepping into new positions.

See Water Polo on page 12



Jon Klein/The Behrend Beacon

The men's water polo team lost all but four players from last year.

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<b>friday</b> <b>59</b> <sub>52</sub> mostly cloudy with scattered showers	<b>saturday</b> <b>64</b> <sub>53</sub> mix of clouds and sun stray shower possible	<b>sunday</b> <b>62</b> <sub>49</sub> partly cloudy stray shower possible
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Forecast courtesy Matthew Alto, weather editor