MU Health Care assessing state budget cuts

By Matthew Reinig
October 29, 2009 | 8:44 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — **MU administrators are unsure what affect the more than $7 million in budget cuts, announced Wednesday by Gov. Jay Nixon, will have on university programs.**

The majority of funding cut from the Higher Education Department would come from the MU Health Care's hospital's and clinic's general operating funds.

"We are very grateful that the core budget of the University of Missouri was not reduced," MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said in a statement. "However, several of the cuts will have both direct and indirect effects on our operations, primarily in health care and other statewide programs administered by the university."

As part of the cuts, Nixon proposed $3,188,653 to be withheld from The Missouri Research and Education Network, which is 25 percent of its total funds, according to a document from the governor's office.

MOREnet is a separate business unit within the University of Missouri System, according to its Web site, and provides Internet connectivity, technical support, videoconferencing services and training to member community colleges, universities, public libraries, health care and state government.

MU Health Care officials are not yet certain how the cuts will affect their programs.

"We are concerned about the proposed cuts, but we are in the process of assessing their impact," MU Health Care spokesman Jeff Hoelscher said. "We'll be looking at this over the next few days and weeks."
University impact totals $7.5 million

By Janese Heavin

Thursday, October 29, 2009

University of Missouri administrators are working to determine how state budget cuts will affect operations.

Gov. Jay Nixon announced yesterday $204 million will be cut from this year’s budget, including more than $7.5 million from university-related operations.

The cuts weren’t unexpected. Last week, financial consultant Jim Moody told UM System curators that withholdings would be necessary to offset state tax revenues that have fallen short of budget expectations.

“We fully understand the economic challenges facing our state and the necessity for the governor to take measures to deal with the fiscal situation,” UM System President Gary Forsee said in a prepared statement today. “We currently are reviewing the actions announced by the governor to better understand their impact on university programs.”

Here’s a closer look at UM-related budget cuts:

- MU hospitals and clinics will see a cut of $3.1 million from state funding that goes into the health system’s general operating fund. Spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said it’s too early to know how that reduction will affect operations. “We’re very concerned about the proposed cuts,” she said. “We’re going to have to assess the impact and figure out what that’s going to mean.”
- The Missouri Research and Education Network, or MOREnet, will see a $3.06 million loss. The network provides internet connectivity, videoconferencing services and technical support to member colleges, universities, K-12 schools and public libraries.

Greg Silvey, director of fiscal and contractual services, said the cut will require vacant positions to be eliminated. MOREnet’s executive director position, vacated earlier this month, will remain open. Other vacancies are being reviewed individually, so it’s too early to say how many will be eliminated, said Anissa Lockett, member communications manager.

Also, Silvey said the state funding cut will require MOREnet to defer replacement of network equipment.

- The Missouri Kidney Program, which falls under the umbrella of the MU School of Medicine, is losing $926,274, or 25 percent of its state allocation. That program, which
relies solely on state funding, assists low-income kidney transplant and dialysis patients across the state. Funding helps needy patients pay for transportation, medication and insurance premiums, Jenkins said.

- Program administrators were not available for comment today. According to the program's annual report, roughly 2,500 Missourians received assistance last year, 83 of whom live in Boone County. Cuts in state funding to the program historically have led to a decline in the number of patients served, the report said.

- Other UM cuts include $203,910 to the Missouri Telehealth Network, which uses telecommunication to deliver medical information to rural clinics and patients, and $413,973 to the Institute of Mental Health, a UM operation in St. Louis. Also, the State Historical Society of Missouri — located on the Columbia campus — will lose $364,000.

Reach Janese Heavin at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jheavin@columbiatribune.com.

This article was published on page A1 of the Thursday, October 29, 2009 edition of The Columbia Daily Tribune.

17 reader comments

The opinions expressed below are those of the readers who submitted them and not those of the Tribune's reporters or editors. Readers are solely responsible for the content of their comments.

Minion Joe says...

And here I thought we'd saved at least that by cutting out unnecessary travel and eliminating snacks at University meetings...

October 29, 2009 at 2:50 p.m. ( link | suggest removal )

megahog says...

yeah, you would think that, but it turns out that travel expenses and snacks are just small potatoes. When you are discussing 7 million dollars, business trips and pizza just doesn't help the cause that much. BUT, departments are being strict with travel nowadays, so at least an effort is being made.

October 29, 2009 at 3:08 p.m. ( link | suggest removal )
Miriion Joe says...

@megahog: The numbers I've heard for the savings due to the policies implemented in January were in the millions, most of which was due to decreased travel. Billions of dollars come through the University every month. Seven point five million is small potatoes.

October 29, 2009 at 3:20 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

KC35 says...

Bring back the snacks. If we're going down the toilet, we may as well have our collective bellies full of tasty treats.

October 29, 2009 at 3:22 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

megahog says...

I stand corrected. That is definitely good that decreased travel has saved millions. BUT, I know you can't tell me the snacks has really helped out that much?! The one positive about "snacks" is that they attract audiences for boring, informational lectures. Without the free pizza, information just doesn't travel to as many ears!

October 29, 2009 at 3:26 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

BooneCountyLifer says...

A few years ago, Delta Airlines saved over a million dollars annually by reducing the number of olives in it's passengers martinis from two to one. You may not be aware, but Missouri's school lunch program calls for two slices of Swiss on sandwiches rather than a single slice. If I were sitting in the governor's chair right now, I would cut the cheese.

October 29, 2009 at 3:35 p.m. (link | suggest removal)
MinionJoe says...

@megahog:

Yeah, snacks probably didn't save much. But I sure miss them. :)

But snacks for events that include non-University people are still allowed. Like you said, free pizza can bring in potential customers. Just like travel for activities related to making the University money are still allowed.

October 29, 2009 at 3:44 p.m. (link | suggest removal )

megahog says...

Whatever it takes! If it means one slice as opposed to two slices of cheese, so be it. I would much rather have the nickel and dime cuts, as opposed to program cuts and hiring freezes.

October 29, 2009 at 3:52 p.m. (link | suggest removal )

philip57 says...

I say reduce the salaries the Gary Pinkel, Mike Anderson, and all the perks the athlete’s receive. That should amount to more than $7.5 million. Problem solved. This should occur throughout the United States. Make it to were the scholarships are awarded to true students.

October 29, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. (link | suggest removal )

kctiger818 says...

@philip: The Athletics Department budget is separate from the rest of the University. Coaches' salaries are NOT paid with state dollars but with revenues from ticket sales, TV, licensing, etc. The same is true of Athletic scholarships and "perks".

October 29, 2009 at 5:45 p.m. (link | suggest removal )
Travelnman says...

MinionJoe says...
Billions of dollars come through the University every month. Seven point five million is small potatoes.

******************************************************************************
Where do some of you come up with this nonsense? This would be totally laughable except for the fact people read it and don't have sense enough to realize it's completely false. Billions per month? Let's see the operating budget for the entire University of Missouri system was between $950 million and $1 billion in 2008. The total revenues were $2.5 billion or slightly over $200 million per month. So you are off by at least a factor of 10.

I guarantee you if even close to billions of dollars were coming through per month we would not be having this discussion because there would be no need to cut anything.

October 29, 2009 at 8:29 p.m. ( link | suggest removal )

Travelnman says...

philip57 says...
I say reduce the salaries the Gary Pinkel, Mike Anderson, and all the perks the athlete's receive. That should amount to more than $7.5 million. Problem solved. This should occur throughout the United States. Make it to were the scholarships are awarded to true students.

******************************************************************************
Not only are you dead wrong you just managed to insult a few hundred young people. True students? Since you seem to be so clueless let me enlighten you just a bit. The student athletes at the University of Missouri graduate at a considerably higher rate than the student body as a whole. The overall grade point average of the student athletes is higher than the student body as a whole. Every year there are some athletes who still have eligibility to compete who are in graduate school. Our backup QB last year is in dental school.

And as already has been pointed out here and innumerable times prior to now the athletic department generates their OWN funds and the taxpayers are NOT paying for the salaries, scholarships, or any other part of their expenses.

Get it?

October 29, 2009 at 8:34 p.m. ( link | suggest removal )
generic_dude says...

@BooneCountyLifer: That is really funny. Thanks.

October 29, 2009 at 9:46 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

DaveRaithel says...

Two slices of cheese? Two slices of cheese!!! Why when I was a wee one, we wuz lucky to get a slice of waxed paper 'tween two sponges - dry sponges you should know, none of that whiney "Oh please can I have wet sponges, the dry ones hurt me teeth when I chew'em" snot-nosed grovelin', thank you very much. And we wuz mighty lucky to get the sponges, you should know, because the poorer blokes had to put their waxed paper 'tween cakes of sawdust smushed together with Elmer's glue. And no stinkin' olives at all. None. Not even a pimento. I'll thank you ....

Comrade Raithel
HarpoMarxistBrigade. signing off....

October 29, 2009 at 11:10 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

DaveRaithel says...

Yeah, the "billions of dollars ... every month" pretty much blew my wad. I'd meant to ramble about "deflationary spirals" but Lord, "billions of dollars ... every month" had to mean at least 2 (two) per month, which is 24 Billion a year. That's like 10% of the GDP of the entire state.

What's the point of being serious?

October 29, 2009 at 11:19 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

K.thoughts says...
"@BooneCountyLifer says...
A few years ago, Delta Airlines saved over a million dollars annually by reducing the number of olives in it's passengers martinis from two to one. You may not be aware, but Missouri's school lunch program calls for two slices of Swiss on sandwiches rather than a single slice. If I were sitting in the governor's chair right now, I would cut the cheese."

Hilarious! Take a bow.

October 29, 2009 at 11:57 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

RealityCheck says...

"And as already has been pointed out here and innumerable times prior to now the athletic department generates their OWN funds and the taxpayers are NOT paying for the salaries, scholarships, or any other part of their expenses."

Hopefully that's true. Berkeley used to believe the same thing:
www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/10/3...

October 30, 2009 at 8:01 a.m. (link | suggest removal)
State Historical Society's budget to be cut 25 percent

By Emily Roman
October 30, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — A 25 percent budget cut is the latest setback that the State Historical Society of Missouri has suffered over the past year.

The society, located in Ellis Library at MU, learned that $364,401 would be taken from its annual budget of $1,457,605, Associate Director Lynn Wolf Gentzler said. The cuts are part of the $204 million in state budget cuts announced by Gov. Jay Nixon on Wednesday.

"It will have a widespread effect on our ability to do programs we have been doing and on providing research assistance," Gentzler said.

Gentzler said they have not made a decision about which programs to draw the money from. She said it would significantly affect personnel costs, which include salaries and benefits of the society's 24 staff members.

Mayor Darwin Hindman said he regrets that the society is having financial issues.

"I think the State Historical Society is a valuable asset to the state and to the people of Columbia," Hindman said.

In the past year, the society has experienced an unfortunate series of events. In May, it was denied federal stimulus money after requesting $30 million for a new building for the society.

In late September, a malfunctioning fire sprinkler head damaged duplicate copies of government documents and publications.

Gentzler said she is not surprised about the funding cut and was expecting further cuts after this year's budget was reduced 10 percent from last year's budget.
Swine flu stirs fears at dorms

Healthy student put out by roommate's ailment.

By Janese Heavin    Thursday, October 29, 2009

The presence of H1N1 on the University of Missouri campus isn't just affecting its victims. In at least one case, a healthy roommate is also suffering side effects.

Allie Bass has temporarily moved from her room in College Avenue Residence Hall while her roommate suffers from swine flu. Bass is sleeping on an air mattress in friends’ rooms and spending her free time in the dorm lobby.

“My immune system is terrible,” she said. “When I get sick, the worst part might be over in five to seven days, but I’m still coughing for weeks. I’m down for a while. Especially with something like H1N1, I’d be sick for a really long time.”

The Student Health Center and residential advisers haven’t been much help, Bass said. “They basically told me to wash my hands, wear a face mask and hope for the best,” she said.

There’s little else the university can do to shield students from the virus, said Susan Even, director of the Student Health Center. Although some schools, including the University of Missouri-St. Louis, have set up isolation areas for students suffering from H1N1, she said it’s logistically impossible for MU to set aside space for sick students.

Plus, Even said, it’s likely those in close contact with an ill person already have been exposed to the virus.

“A person who is sick with an influenza-like illness is going to be contagious for 24 hours before demonstrating any symptoms,” she said. “That makes it difficult to ensure that a” roommate “has not already been exposed.”

And it’s a student’s responsibility to wash his or her hands, take advantage of the hand sanitizers across campus and keep work spaces clean, she said.

But Bass and her mom, Jeanette Bass, question the fairness of forcing healthy students to fend for themselves.

“A sick student has a right to be in their room, I agree to some degree,” the mother said. “But a healthy student has the right to continue to be healthy as well.”
MU encourages sick students to return to their family homes whenever possible, but Jeanette Bass thinks that should be a requirement if an isolation area isn’t made available. “This sick student lives in St. Louis and could get home, but she’s choosing not to,” she said.

The Tribune tried to contact the roommate this morning, but there was no response to messages.

Jeanette Bass said she worries MU administrators aren’t taking enough precautions to reduce the spread of influenza. “I am most concerned about the health of my daughter and others like her,” she said. “And I am disappointed the school is taking such a lackadaisical attitude about something as serious as H1N1.”

Reach Janese Heavin at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jheavin@columbiatribune.com.

This article was published on page A14 of the Thursday, October 29, 2009 edition of The Columbia Daily Tribune.

27 reader comments

The opinions expressed below are those of the readers who submitted them and not those of the Tribune’s reporters or editors. Readers are solely responsible for the content of their comments.

RK11111111111 says...

Students need to learn how to not cough in peoples faces, you can't go anywhere without some wet behind the ears student standing there and coughing directly on you.

October 29, 2009 at 2:40 p.m. ( link | suggest removal )

MinionJoe says...

http://www.weather.com/outlook/health...

October 29, 2009 at 2:53 p.m. ( link | suggest removal )
**kingofthemonkeys says...**

Just an idea... If you are coughing your lungs up, maybe you shouldn't go see a movie. Nothing like being stuck in a room for 2 hours with a human snot sprinkler. While you're at it, be sure to bring your sick kids along, too. Afterwards, you can all go to Applebee's, where they can run around unattended. Common sense & courtesy have apparently entered into a suicide pact.

October 29, 2009 at 3:14 p.m. (link | suggest removal )

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**MoZarks says...**

booga! booga! Just take the bioweapon er, I mean the "swine" flu vaccine, and you will have nothing to worry about! booga! booga! We're all gonna die and it will be the fault of the people who don't take the vaccine! booga! booga! People who won't take the vaccines should wear a yellow star so we can identify them and it will make it easier to round them up when the time comes for the mandatory vaccinations! booga! booga!

October 29, 2009 at 3:25 p.m. (link | suggest removal )

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**Skyy says...**

Speaking of common sense and courtesy - I work on campus. We wipe down our office with disinfectant wipes numerous times daily. We also use Lysol spray. Just today a student came into the office to turn in something that was requested from her. She had a red runny nose, sniffling. Then as she handed over the papers she said, "I'm sorry, I have the Swine Flu."

Come on! Please have the sense to stay home and not pass your germs onto others. After she left, we got out the Lysol spray.

October 29, 2009 at 3:32 p.m. (link | suggest removal )

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**moagogo says...**

The mother and daughter sound a bit loony to me. The poor roommate has H1N1 and all they can think about are themselves. Real compassionate people, I'm sure.
ann says...

Hello, I had the Swine flu; it was bad but, I am okay and all better. I have and had no intention of getting the vaccine, who knows what all side effects will come from the vaccine. Come on people you are acting like it is a definite death sentence. It isn’t in fact if you look at CDC’s website it show that the illness effects children far more and worse than adults. Furthermore, thus far in the U.S. it seems to have no more of a death rate than the regular flu. The only difference is the age group that is being impacted most is kids. It is only an illness, most people who have it or have had it will live and not only that but, why would someone expose themselves to a questionable vaccine when they have natural immunity from having had the illness itself? Bottom line, this too shall pass.

October 29, 2009 at 4:09 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

Reader35 says...

the mother is way off. What is lackadaisical about the university’s response to H1N1? I’m a student on campus and I feel like there have been plenty of activities to promote flu awareness. If the mother is so concerned about her daughter, maybe she should take her out of school and bring her home. Does she think there are enough extra empty dorm rooms for everyone who has a sick roommate? Come on, get real.

October 29, 2009 at 4:10 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

comointexas says...

I’m a graduate student......and I had swine flu a couple of weeks ago......I really couldn’t afford to miss class. When you miss class it puts you so far behind plus I teach labs as well. It’s extremely difficult to manage everything even though you’re sick, it was just too big of a pain to miss class and my labs.

October 29, 2009 at 4:13 p.m. (link | suggest removal)
RBLOVER says...

Really Janese?...is this news? Parts of this story are good...take out:

But Bass and her mom, Jeanette Bass, question the fairness of forcing healthy students to fend for themselves.

“A sick student has a right to be in their room, I agree to some degree,” the mother said. “But a healthy student has the right to continue to be healthy as well.”

MU encourages sick students to return to their family homes whenever possible, but Jeanette Bass thinks that should be a requirement if an isolation area isn’t made available. “This sick student lives in St. Louis and could get home, but she’s choosing not to,” she said.

The Tribune tried to contact the roommate this morning, but there was no response to messages.

Jeanette Bass said she worries MU administrators aren’t taking enough precautions to reduce the spread of influenza. “I am most concerned about the health of my daughter and others like her,” she said. “And I am disappointed the school is taking such a lackadaisical attitude about something as serious as H1N1.”

If this is taken out then you’ve got a good story. You do a good job of writing about a "fear" and what the univ. is doing about it but it goes to far. With this in the story, it becomes one sided and bullcrap.

October 29, 2009 at 4:17 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

clw40 says...

...“I am disappointed the school is taking such a lackadaisical attitude about something as serious as H1N1.”...oh for Pete's sake! seriously?

Have you been hiding under a rock? The University has been sending out information, updates, more updates and even more updates to students and parents....there have been changes made at the Student Health Center and Res Life. She would probably be the first to complain if her daughter were forced home....Did she ever think that the roommate may have a family member with an immune issue?

October 29, 2009 at 4:17 p.m. (link | suggest removal)
clw40 says...

"Swine flu stirs fears at dorms"

Actually that should read

"One Helicopter Mother Freaks Out!"

October 29, 2009 at 4:21 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

RBLOVER says...

on second thought its all crap. how did you come up with this news idea? are you related to the family?? how does one person, who obviously doesn't know about swine flu or univ. precautions, become a tribune news story?? really? can i get a story? i showed up late for the texas game and there weren't any student seats...but then again i left 10 min later.

October 29, 2009 at 4:23 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

concerned parent says...

Comointexas, how did you get to be a graduate student when you don't have the common sense or courtesy to stay home when you are sick! How incredibly irresponsible of you. We had it in our family in September. My husband and one son, neither myself nor my other son caught it, however my husband stayed home from work and I kept my son out of school for 5 days. My fear was not them becoming worse, they got over it. However, I don't want to be the one responsible for passing it on to the pregnant mom or the child with already compromised health issues and as a result cause their death.

Way to think only of yourself. I don't know what your degree program is in, but it's irresponsible people like you who are helping to bring down our society as a whole.

I rarely get this worked up on this board, but this just REALLY pushed my buttons. If you are going to think only of yourself, then I hope you are pursuing a career which will give you minimal contact with the outside world and that the students you are teaching labs to are not learning from your irresponsible behavior.
jheavin (Janese Heavin) says...

rblover -- lol, no I am not related to the family.

I thought this story gave a good real life example of how H1N1 is affecting students, even those who aren't sick. It obviously is causing disruption on campus for a variety of reasons.

And, no, you can't get a story if you show up to the Texas game 10 minutes late and don't get a seat :-(

-- Janese

RBLOVER says...

Janese it does give a good real life example of how H1N1 is effecting students. :) I wouldn't say that it is "obviously disrupting campus", I believe the swine flu threat has gone away for the most part. (on mu campus) It was a big deal in September when there were emails sent out constantly and professors talked about it everyday. The univ. has done all it can to promote good health...this story misses alot of it and turns swine flu into a roommate battle. The story is too personal....I really dont see the "news" in a roommate choosing to sleep in a friends room b/c her roommate is sick...its kind of common sense, if my roommate is sick and i dont want to be around it, I'll go somewhere else. More detail on what the Univ. is doing for those with swine flu or without would have been a better choice than a personal fight and would have made the story "news".

Puck says...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtbSO6...

October 29, 2009 at 6:01 p.m. ( link | suggest removal )
Transplant says...

The Student Health Center and residential advisers haven't been much help, Bass said. "They basically told me to wash my hands, wear a face mask and hope for the best," she said.

Oh Boo-freakin-hoo, give me a break. You're in college, you're not four years old. What do you expect the health center and advisors to do? Swaddle you, rock you on their lap, and spoon feed you hot soup? Wash your flippin hands, cover your mouth when you cough, and skip class if you're sick. Get over yourselves! It's a school, not a private hospital.

My family was infected as well. Four people in my home, and one is only a toddler. They took precautions by holing up in their rooms, covering their mouths, spraying lysol everywhere they tracked, and staying home so they didn't infect others. I luckily did not catch it, but I was smart enough to quarantine myself as well, and take care of myself. Wake up or shut up.

October 29, 2009 at 6:42 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

midwestshock says...

ann said: "why would someone expose themselves to a questionable vaccine when they have natural immunity from having had the illness itself?"

This couldn't be farther from the truth. The vaccine isn't questionable at all. It's formulated the exact same way as every other flu vaccine. The only thing they have changed is the antigens that were used. Also, immunity to influenza is by no means 'natural.' When you get the vaccine your body mounts a response to it so that the next time it comes in contact with those antigens (if you get actual influenza) it can react faster and you usually don't see symptoms. If you've already had H1N1 then there's no point to get the vaccine since your body has already mounted a response and there's little chance you'll have symptoms if you get it again.

As for the mother who thought it was irresponsible for her daughters roommate to go home when she discovered she had H1N1: would you think the same way if she were from Wisconsin and attending MU (like me)? It's kind of hard to just pick up and leave for a few days...

October 29, 2009 at 6:50 p.m. (link | suggest removal)
Mozarks says...

You're correct Midwestshock. The so-called "swine" flu vaccine and the regular seasonal flu vaccine are formulated the same way - with a preservative called thimerosal. Thimerosal is a mercury-containing preservative used in the batch vaccines. The Institute of Medicine has warned that infants, children, and pregnant women should not be injected with thimerosal, yet the majority of flu shots contain 25 micrograms of it. They also contain other yummies like aluminum and formaldehyde. Some of the "swine" flu vaccines even contain other adjuvants, like squalene, which has been linked to the Gulf War Illness and other chronic autoimmune diseases. So go right ahead and quit worrying and take the vaccine. Even though it has no proven efficacy, you'll still get your dose of Vitamin M.

October 29, 2009 at 7:18 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

 unixcorn says...

"But Bass and her mom, Jeanette Bass, question the fairness of forcing healthy students to fend for themselves."

You go to college to learn...this is a learning experience. I say quit whining, wear your mask and wash your hands. You could just as easily get run over by a car on the way to pizza so why worry about a flu that isn't deadly?

What's the point of all this media hype anyway. It's just a flu. I think there is a hidden agenda somewhere.

October 29, 2009 at 7:55 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

 midwestshock says...

Mozarks: squalene is not (and probably never will be) approved for use in vaccines in the US so that is moot. While thimerosal is used in trace amounts in influenza vaccines studies in recent years have debunked any hypothesis that is causes autism and it is actually cleared from the infants body very quickly. FWIW, thimerosal is broken down into ethylmercury in the body which is vastly different from methylmercury (which is what is the predominant form in the environment and what people can ingest from certain types of fish).

October 29, 2009 at 9:37 p.m. (link | suggest removal)
Dadoffour says...

Everyone needs to relax. A virus is a virus. Kill it by washing your hands, use hand sanitizer, and use some common sense. A doctor friend of mine told me that they're handing out the vaccine 'like candy' in clinic. They're still not sure that the studies are conclusive about it's effectiveness. Flu symptoms can be beaten. Just stay home, suck it up because you're not going to feel good. Drink water, even some gatorade, take advil and tylenol for your fever, and eat simple foods like crackers or toast, bananas, chicken broth, and call in to work. Has anyone thrown this out there? Learn how to take care of yourself and your kids when you get sick. Stay out of the ER, they'll tell you the same thing. I used to work there.

God gave us an immune system for a reason. It's good to get your shots as a kid, but rolling up your sleeve for every shot coming from the CDC cause of something you read online, or saw on TV (KMIZ just ran another 'swine flu' story as I write this)... it'll actually harm your immune system, because you don't naturally develop the antibodies. But, the biggest thing is this: everyone needs to relax.

October 29, 2009 at 10:21 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

MoZarks says...

Again you are correct midwestshock. Squalene has not been approved for use in vaccines in the US. So why was it included in the anthrax vaccines given to Gulf War soldiers, and why did some of the current vaccine manufacturers include it in their "swine" flu vaccines? The U.S. government has contracts with several drug companies to develop and produce "swine" flu vaccines. At least two of those companies, Novartis and GlaxoSmithKline, are using an adjuvant in their H1N1 vaccines.

The adjuvant? Squalene.

According to Meryl Nass, M.D., an authority on the anthrax vaccine, "A novel feature of the two H1N1 vaccines being developed by companies Novartis and GlaxoSmithKline is the addition of squalene-containing adjuvants to boost immunogenicity and dramatically reduce the amount of viral antigen needed. This translates to much faster production of desired vaccine quantities."

Novartis's proprietary squalene adjuvant for their H1N1 vaccine is MF59. Glaxo's is ASO3. MF59 has yet to be approved by the FDA for use in any U.S. vaccine, despite its history of use in other countries.

Per Dr. Nass, there are only three vaccines in existence using an approved squalene adjuvant. None of the three are approved for use in the U.S.
Also, I wasn't aware that there was any form of mercury that was considered safe for injecting directly into a person's body. Maybe you can enlighten me on the various forms of mercury which cause no harm to a person's neurological system?

October 29, 2009 at 10:28 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

MoZarks says...

Midwestshock-

Here is a recent study of thimerosal you may not be aware of:

Mitochondrial dysfunction, impaired oxidative-reduction activity, degeneration, and death in human neuronal and fetal cells induced by low-level exposure to thimerosal and other metal compounds
Authors: D. A. Geier a; P. G. King b; M. R. Geier c
Affiliations: a Institute of Chronic Illnesses, Inc., Maryland, USA
b CoMeD, Inc., Maryland, USA
c The Genetic Centers of America, Maryland, usa
doi: 10.1080/02772240802246458
Publication Frequency: 8 issues per year
Published in: Toxicological & Environmental Chemistry, Volume 91, Issue 4 June 2009, pages 735 - 749
First Published: June 2009

Abstract
Thimerosal (ethylmercurithiosalicylic acid), an ethylmercury (EtHg)-releasing compound (49.55% mercury (Hg)), was used in a range of medical products for more than 70 years. Of particular recent concern, routine administering of Thimerosal-containing biologics/childhood vaccines have become significant sources of Hg exposure for some fetuses/infants. This study was undertaken to investigate cellular damage among in vitro human neuronal (SH-SY-5Y neuroblastoma and 1321N1 astrocytoma) and fetal (nontransformed) model systems using cell vitality assays and microscope-based digital image capture techniques to assess potential damage induced by Thimerosal and other metal compounds (aluminum (Al) sulfate, lead (Pb)(II) acetate, methylmercury (MeHg) hydroxide, and mercury (Hg)(II) chloride) where the cation was reported to exert adverse effects on developing cells. Thimerosal-associated cellular damage was also evaluated for similarity to pathophysiological findings observed in patients diagnosed with autistic disorders (ADs). Thimerosal-induced cellular damage as evidenced by concentration- and time-dependent mitochondrial damage, reduced oxidative-reduction activity, cellular degeneration, and cell death in the in vitro human neuronal and fetal model systems studied. Thimerosal at low nanomolar (nM) concentrations induced significant cellular toxicity in human neuronal and fetal cells. Thimerosal-induced cytotoxicity is similar to that observed in AD pathophysiologic studies. Thimerosal was found to be significantly more toxic than the other
metal compounds examined. Future studies need to be conducted to evaluate additional mechanisms underlying Thimerosal-induced cellular damage and assess potential co-exposures to other compounds that may increase or decrease Thimerosal-mediated toxicity.

October 29, 2009 at 10:48 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

LadyLuck says...

Moagogo --

I agree with you. The level of self-involvement and lack of compassion Jeanette Bass is publicly displaying is what gives me the booga boogas. What does she expect, that they'll build a 100-bed infirmary in the next few days? That they throw the kids out even if they're too sick to drive any long distance?

A sick young person with a high fever and probably rampant diarrhea and vomiting is not only in no condition to safely drive anywhere. chances are they're terrified and need adult compassion and advice in the worst way.

One would think any decent helicopter mom like Bass obviously is would have enough maternal instinct to want to help the sick kid (or at least contact her parents) rather than talk about her like she's just rotting meat getting in her way.

Booga booga LOL.

October 29, 2009 at 10:52 p.m. (link | suggest removal)

FedUp says...

Ease up on the mother folks. Are any of you parents? I bet not. You would have a different view if you were. I understand what everyone is saying here, but the fact remains no matter how many times a day you wash your hands, put on sanitizer and etc... this junk is in the air every where. Personally I think the sick roomie should get her work from her classes and go home to St. Louis for a week or so. A little common sense goes a long way this is true, but so does a little medical sense also even if you are not a doctor or nurse. If you have a virus use the common sense and medical sense to take it upon yourself to get away from others so you do not spread it to them. This whole h1n1/t b stuff is scaring a lot of people, so try to have a heart and ease up on the insulting remarks.

October 29, 2009 at 11:17 p.m. (link | suggest removal)
The University of Missouri Extension is aiming to get more first-time farmers into the business by tapping into the growing interest in small-scale suburban and urban agriculture.

Buoyed by a recent grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, extension specialists are hoping to reach young farmers, particularly in urban and suburban areas, including St. Louis.

An eight-class workshop, starting in February, will be held in St. Louis County, though the location has yet to be decided.

"There's a lot of urban farming taking place, so that's an audience," said Debi Kelly, one of the planners of the Grow Your Farm program. "They have some of the skills, but now they want to make it a business."

The Grow Your Farm program was launched in 2008 to help first-time farmers — defined as anyone with less than 10 years of experience — learn the business of farming.

"Essentially, it walks you through the concept and helps you come up with a business plan," Kelly said.

The program also guides first-time farmers through any required licensing processes and could, with the new funds, develop a mentoring program for young farmers.

Over the past six decades the number of young farmers getting into agriculture has declined, while the age of the average American farmer has risen into the mid-50s. In the past several years, however, the number of young and first-time farmers has gone up slightly, along with a renewed interest in agriculture and
food systems.

Since the launch of Grow Your Farm, only a handful of would-be farmers have participated. Kelly believes that's because extension offices typically reach traditional commodity farmers, rather than the new generation of smaller-scale farmers.

"These folks need to have a business plan," Kelly said. "And most of them don't."
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Difficult Dialogue discusses issues of race and civility

By Caitlyn Emmett
October 30, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU Difficult Dialogues explored why race is so difficult to talk about Thursday night.

“I think the difficult thing is trying to talk objectively about something that can’t be talked about objectively,” MU senior Erin Horth, 20, said.

The event, "Courageous Conversations about Race & Civility: A Dialogue for Everyone," was held Thursday night in the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center, the second of a three-part discussion series.

“We’re not really taught to talk about race respectfully and productively,” MU sophomore Emily Luft, 19, said. “I think this event allows people a purposeful space and an opportunity to have this discussion.”

The Difficult Dialogues Initiative is a nationwide program designed to help higher education institutions handle tensions.

“I think a key element from this discussion series is that people recognize others who may have felt isolated see that they are not alone,” said David Mitchell, associate professor at the Missouri School of Law.

The town hall and panel discussion event consisted of five panelists who acted as a catalyst in opening the discussion on race through personal experiences and its impact on them. Participants were put in smaller discussion groups to try to have honest conversations about race.

“We have to go beyond the scripts and fear that life and society has placed in front of us in order to have a real honest conversation about race,” Mitchell said. “You can have
passion and emotion but still listen and have an honest conversation about race and still remain civil."

Open discussion about why race is difficult to talk about and how to address these issues within the community followed the small group discussions.

Fear of being misunderstood, alienation, not having the right vocabulary and talking about a topic that is often times heavy with emotion were some of the reasons participants found race a difficult topic.

MU folklore and film instructor LuAnn Roth, a panel member, said it was important for people to use the conversation as a springboard for future discussions or actions to help break down biases people harbor.

“Every conversation we have about race helps us gain a better understanding of society,” Luft said.
ACGME re-evaluates School of Medicine probation status

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education visited the School of Medicine on Tuesday regarding the probationary status for administration in the school's residency and fellowship programs.

In February 2008, ACGME placed the school's programs on probation. School of Medicine spokesman Rich Gleba said multiple citations caused the probation.

"Concerns cited by the ACGME following its previous site visit involve the proper referencing of policy language in manuals, resident representation at meetings on campus, processes for reviewing and disseminating internal reports and the level of resources and oversight associated with institutional administration of the residents' daily work," Gleba said.

The administrative component of the resident education program was placed on probation due to those citations, but Gleba said they are not associated with the actual accreditation of the individual residency and fellowship programs in the School of Medicine. Students can still complete the program and receive credit.

"MU has an internationally-admired education program for medical students, which recently received the maximum level of re-accreditation possible from the Association of American Medical Colleges," Gleba said. "Furthermore, every component of MU's resident education program remains fully accredited."

According to ACGME's Web site, a residency program is a period of education and training in a chosen specialty that physicians undergo after they graduate from medical school.

"Most residency programs last from three to seven years, during which residents care for patients under the supervision of physician faculty and participate in educational and research activities," ACGME's Web site stated.

Gleba said since ACGME's last campus visit, the School of Medicine has been working to fix the issues cited in the organization's report in an effort to receive a favorable accreditation status.

The school has undertaken small administrative changes, including reassigning tasks to nurses, social workers, pharmacists and other staff members so resident physicians can focus on other duties with higher educational value.

In an effort to solve the school's administrative oversight issues, School of Medicine Dean Robert Churchill and the UM system Health Care CEO James Ross have assumed personal oversight of the institutional resident education program office, Gleba said. The school has also increased the number of student seats on the Graduate Medical Education Committee from two to six.
"In addition, a new University of Missouri Health System was created in September 2008 in part to 
 improve oversight and operation of the medical school, hospitals and clinics, and clinical departments 
 involved in resident education," Gleba said.

Gleba said 39 percent of the School of Medicine's graduating class has been accepted into the school's 
 residency training program. The school has 400 resident physicians in training.

After Tuesday's visit, Gleba said the School of Medicine hopes the probation is soon lifted and the school 
 receives a favorable accreditation status from ACGME, though he's unsure when that could happen.