

## H1N1 | H1N1 vaccines still available at the Adair County Health Department

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ter focused on preventing the spread of H1N1 because young adults were a high-risk group for complications from the virus.

Higgins said that although she thought Truman was significantly impacted, the Health Center took enough precautions aside from immunization. These precautions included encouraging students to stay home from class if they experienced flu-like symptoms, and that they self-treat unless they had a complicating factor or underlying illness such as asthma or pulmonary diseases.

"Do I believe that we had more than 175 cases? Absolutely," Higgins said. "We had much more than that, but I think our students did what they were encouraged to do and that was self-treat, stay home, stay in bed, don't go to class."

She said the campus-wide effort helped keep H1N1 from becoming a crisis at Truman and that student interest in vaccination has waned significantly.

"That usually happens when it dies down in the media," Higgins said. "Interestingly, they're still telling us

that people who weren't immunized should be immunized. And some schools have actually seen cases of H1N1 flaring up after spring break."

Higgins said that although the Health Center has exhausted their supply of vaccines and incidences of H1N1 are down, a second wave of the virus could occur. She said it is not too late to get vaccinated.

Jim LeBaron, assistant administrator of the Adair County Health Department, said that although there have been some cases of H1N1 brought to the Health Department's attention in 2010, it is fair to say the reported and confirmed cases have declined. He said the community has been active in seeking the vaccine.

"I would say somewhere in January or February we had just approached 20 percent of Adair County population having gotten the vaccine," LeBaron said. "And we're over 5,000 [shots] given from 2009 to date."

He said that although there have been fewer ILI and H1N1 cases reported and confirmed in 2010, the vaccination is still worth getting and is available at their clinic Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Lori Guffey, Adair County Health Department clinic supervisor, said the health department has not experienced the need to reorder the vaccine but are always open to the possibility if there would be a need.

Guffey said that even though confirmed cases have decreased, residents should still be prepared to handle H1N1. She said it is still worth getting the vaccine.

"I certainly think that it is always quote 'a concern' because of this second wave that could come," Guffey said. "However, at this time that's just based on personal opinion. I don't think it's as much of a concern now."

Guffey said that although there are numbers for ILI cases in Adair, there is no way to measure how many cases of H1N1 there have actually been in Adair, and that the number has probably gone down because of the efforts of residents to protect themselves.

"In the very beginning there was a lot of fear about H1N1," Guffey said. "As a result of that, everyone made the effort individually if they wanted to obtain the vaccine. And so, hopefully by getting the vaccine it decreased the viral infection that was out there."



Photo submitted by Lona Moody  
Human vs. Zombie players battle outside West Campus on Saturday.

## HvZ | Moderators says cancellation is best for safety

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be more likely to recognize it because they have become accustomed to being more aware of their environment, who's in their environment and how they're acting," he said.

DPS Director Tom Johnson said having guns on campus is prohibited by state law but stressed that no one saw a gun during the incident. He also said he doesn't think the men were affiliated with the University.

"Other than not reporting it right away, there was nothing that the people playing the game did wrong, and I wouldn't even say it was wrong — they just didn't think anything to it until they got to thinking about it later," he said.

Johnson said DPS looks at Humans vs. Zombies every year to

make sure the moderators are following the rules and know how the game should work. He said if these rules are not followed, his department could suspend the game.

Lou Ann Gilchrist, Dean of Student Affairs, said there was no connection between the gun being on campus and Humans vs. Zombies, and the organization would not be penalized.

"If someone brought a gun to an athletic event, I don't know that we would ban athletics," she said. "Though we may have to take some precautions."

Gilchrist said moderators and players of the game might have to look at procedures to ensure safety in the future.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Junior George Koors (on bench, right) and sophomore Alex Ewing (on bench, left) rally Wednesday night on the Quad. They received 14.9 percent of the vote.

## SENATE | Current Student Senate Vice President Isaac Robinson wins election

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Olmstead mentioned face time with students as an important and a duty of the vice president, and he said one of the biggest challenges the vice president will face is internal communication.

"The student government needs to perform its operations correct-

ly and effectively," Olmstead said. He said one of his main goals was to improve Truman's technology by establishing a "formally standing technology committee" through increasing the number of smart classrooms. Olmstead said that if he had to replace Robinson for any reason, he would adjust the platform to stu-

dents' needs, but because he worked as a team with Robinson, he could effectively tackle issues the students care about.

Koors, Allan and Robinson said at the debate Monday night that they would stay in communication with each other, regardless of the outcome.

# Tight budget might lead to cuts in Social Services funding

BY TAWANDA KANHEMA  
Staff Reporter

Social service beneficiaries and providers funded by Missouri have their fingers crossed, waiting for possible state Senate approval of expense cuts for the 2010-11 year.

Scott Rowson, the spokesman of Missouri's Department of Social Services, said that last week the Missouri House of Representatives presented what they described as a "balanced budget" downsized by \$220 million out of an expected expenditure reduction target of \$500 million. The state expects at least \$300 million in stimulus funding from the federal government to make up for the balance. The Senate is expected to vote on the budget before the end of May.

Social services came under the spotlight after the Missouri House Appropriations Committee for Health, Mental Health and Social Services approved its budget in

February, with far-reaching cuts on state-funded social support services such as maternity homes, domestic violence shelters, crisis pregnancy centers and federally qualified health care centers.

Domestic violence shelters currently receive nearly \$5 million from the state, and the committee suggested that this be reduced by \$2.4 million, Rowson said.

Penny Miles, executive director of the Kirksville-based North East Missouri Community Action Agency, a government funded agency that works with early learning centers for children, said funding cuts would potentially roll back the achievements made over the years in improving the standards of living and

education for children from poor families.

"The program that we have that would be most impacted is the Early Headstart, which caters to children under the age of 3 years," Miles said. "Learning programs for children over the age of 3 years are mostly funded by the federal government."

Early Headstart receives at least \$500,000 from the state each year and supports 54 families in Adair and Knox counties.

"Cutting funding from that program could cause terrible problems for us and the families," Miles said. "We want children from rural backgrounds to be able to go to school. Those 54 families are working to make more

income, so childcare is very important for them because without that they would not be able to continue."

Miles said that although the agency received funding from the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act, its allocations are often delayed by periods of up to three months.

"The [state government] is very slow to pass those funds to us, and that causes severe cash flow problems," Miles said. "The main issue is that the state is not getting the money to us in time."

Ruth Ehresman, director of health and budget policy at the Missouri Budget Project, an organization that conducts research on public policy and economic development, said the cuts to social services would harm Missouri's service infrastructure in the long run.

"We are very concerned about the proposed cuts," Ehresman said. "Non-profit organizations that provide services to the aged and

individuals with mental illness will be affected. Down the road, we are cutting a lot of programs that are meant to be preventive in nature and help people in crisis. We are making social policy that is not good common sense."

Ehresman said cutting funding to services like the juvenile justice system would increase Missouri's prison population in the long run and impose a larger financial burden on the state.

"The most expensive option [in the justice system] is to incarcerate, and — in dealing with aging citizens — the most expensive option would be to send people to nursing homes," Ehresman said. "Over time, we're going to end up spending more money on the individuals. We will have done harm to our service infrastructure."

Rowson said his department would use all means to minimize the impact of funding cuts on vul-

nerable families.

"We are definitely working to make sure that whatever cuts we implement will not affect the most vulnerable of our citizens," Rowson said. "It is still too early to say for sure what we are going to end up looking at, but we are pretty confident that we will be able to protect the vulnerable citizens."

Rowson said the department of social services was working with Governor Jay Nixon's office to come up with cost-cutting measures, including privatizing social services like the collection of child support to reduce government expenditure on labor.

"Privatizing some services might save the state some money," he said. "Services like child support enforcement work, child support orders and collection are currently done by state employees. If there can be efficiency and improvements, that could save taxpayer [money]."



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