
From: Curran, Diana
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 4:39 PM
To: staff
Subject: Influenza preparations at UM-Flint this fall

Dear Staff members:

Here is an update on university preparations for the expected increase in cases of H1N1 flu (formerly swine flu) this fall on the Flint campus.

We continue to see a low, but steady level of H1N1 illness, and public health officials expect this to increase in the fall as students return to classrooms here and across the country. Members of the university administration and individual schools have been preparing throughout the summer.

Students are encouraged to go or stay home, away from class and other public areas, until they are fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-lowering medication.. The CDC recommends this approach of self isolation to treating the flu on university campuses. In most cases this will require an isolation period of three to five days. Isolation helps the ill person recover faster and helps to prevent the spread of the flu. (CDC web site http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/guidelines_colleges.htm)

Faculty have been encouraged to consider alternative teaching methods if they or a large number of their students are absent with the flu or if they themselves become ill and cannot teach class. They have been asked to be prepared to answer student inquiries about making up work or taking incompletes. There may be many more requests than usual for these kinds of accommodations. Additional suggestions and guidance to faculty members when planning for H1N1 flu this fall will follow from the Provost for Academic Affairs.

Because we expect the severity of the H1N1 strain of flu to be similar to that of seasonal flu, we also expect the university will continue with all regularly scheduled classes and other activities. However, if faculty and staff members become ill with the flu, we encourage them to stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-lowering medication.

All current human resources policies regarding sick time or paid time off remain in effect. If you or any of your co-workers become sick with a flu-like illness, the best thing to do is to call in sick as you normally would and use sick time or paid time off to stay home until you get better. Faculty and or their academic units are encouraged to establish a means to notify students of temporarily cancelled class(es). This is an excellent time for supervisors to review and insure that departmental communication procedures for faculty and staff to report illnesses are in place and understood by all.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines flu-like illness this way: A fever of 100.4 F (38.0 C) or greater, plus a cough or sore throat and possibly other symptoms like runny nose, body aches, headaches, chills, fatigue, vomiting or diarrhea. It is important to note that most of those who become ill are getting mild to moderate cases of the flu and they are recovering fully in about a week, without any medical intervention.

As developments warrant, you can expect additional e-mail messages. Please visit the University's H1N1 web pages shown below where you can find links to the latest advice from medical experts at the

University of Michigan and from agencies like the Genesee County Health Department, the CDC and the World Health Organization on topics such as vaccines, underlying conditions and restrictions of treatment with Tamiflu.

Soon new “cover your cough” and “wash your hands” campaign posters as well as other materials will be available for download, printing, posting and sharing with others.

Those of us working on H1N1 preparedness and response will do our best to keep the university community healthy and safe, and to keep you informed. We welcome your questions about the H1N1 flu, or university preparations. Please send them to: fluquestions@umflint.edu

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Additional resources:

UM-Flint H1N1 information:
<http://www.umflint.edu/emergency/>

Information on the UM response to the flu:
<http://www.vpcomm.umich.edu/pa/key/flu-H1N1.html>

Genesee County Health Department
<http://www.gchd.us/HotTopics/H1N1Flu.asp>

Information on the flu from U.S. health officials:
www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/

Recommendations for colleges and universities:
http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/guidelines_colleges.htm

US Department of Health and Human Services
www.flu.gov