



**Provost and  
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Academic Affairs**

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ISU Faculty and Staff

Re: Efforts to Reduce H1N1 on campus

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to request your assistance about an issue central to public health on ISU's campuses: H1N1 (formerly known as Swine Flu, a novel type of influenza A).

While currently there is no outbreak of H1N1 on campus, there is a strong possibility that we will experience at least some occurrences this Fall. Given the uniqueness of this type of influenza and the potential danger that an outbreak would present to our students, faculty, and staff, we are asking for your assistance in preventing the spread of the illness by adopting the following measures:

**For students who have symptoms** of Novel H1N1 (fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue):

- 1) Please consider not requiring a written doctor's note for class absences for H1N1 symptoms. Health experts recommend home isolation. Requiring individuals ill with H1N1 to seek medical help will expose more people to the virus and increase the numbers who are ill. Student Health Services is available to speak with ill individuals by phone (282-2330) and make appropriate recommendations about the need for in-person medical care.
- 2) Consider changing policies on absences, missed examinations, and late assignments so as to encourage home isolation. Any requirements that encourage students to attend class when they are ill with H1N1 symptoms will increase the spread of the virus on campus.
- 3) Consider using alternative pedagogical means (such as electronic and internet-based systems) for ill individuals.

**Actions that help prevent the spread** of Novel H1N1 include:

- 1) Cough or sneeze into sleeves or handkerchiefs
- 2) Wash your hands frequently, especially after shaking hands, coughing, sneezing, and handling equipment that is handled by others.
- 3) Avoid hand shaking when greeting individuals
- 4) Provide disposable wipes for cleaning equipment used by multiple individuals such as keyboards, doorknobs, and telephones.
- 5) Arrange desks in the classroom to increase distance between students

Here are some references for your information:

<http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/higheredguidance.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/qa.htm>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpPA73SZJYE&feature=related>

Thank you for your assistance.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson  
Provost and Vice President

GAO/cmt