



Date: September 4, 2009

To: All Students

From: Dominick Carachilo, Vice President Academic Affairs

Re: H1N1 Precautions and Policies

As you are aware, there is significant concern among health officials about the upcoming flu season and specifically, the H1N1 virus (formerly known as the Swine Flu). A college community can be particularly vulnerable to flu outbreaks. At this time, we haven't experienced any possible cases of H1N1 virus but we need to take prudent precautions to minimize risk to our students and staff. This is a responsibility we all share so I want to inform you what the college is doing and how you can help.

Unless recommended otherwise by health officials, Johnson College will remain open if we experience an outbreak of H1N1 flu. This is what the government recommends and this is consistent with what other colleges have been doing. Should we experience any possible or confirmed cases of H1N1 flu among our student or employee population, we will inform you as soon as practical but we will maintain individual confidentiality as required by law.

All health officials agree that the key precaution to prevent the flu from spreading is to minimize the exposure between healthy individuals and individuals experiencing flu symptoms. Therefore, if you have the flu or you are beginning to experience flu like symptoms, please do not go to class. If you live nearby or commute to campus, please go home immediately and stay home until at least 24 hours after your symptoms have passed. If you are a residential student, please return home if possible until your symptoms have passed for 24 hours. If you need to remain on campus, please inform Christine Buckery (On Campus Housing Coordinator) who can be reached at 570-702-8950 or in the Moffat Building. Christine will work with you to ensure you get appropriate medical care and she will arrange to isolate you from other students. She will also arrange for meals to be delivered and help with any other needs you have.

While this is an individual decision, most health officials believe that a preventive flu vaccine could be beneficial. As vaccines become available, you may want to consult your doctor about the advisability of a preventive vaccine. Be aware that many health plans provide coverage for vaccines and you may only be charged for an "office visit".

Our faculty are fully aware of the precautions we are taking and their primary concern is our student's well being. Our faculty are prepared to work with you to arrange for you to make up assignments if you miss class. If you're going to miss class, please contact your

teachers to let them know you'll be absent and to discuss how to make up assignments when you return.

There are a number of precautions each of us can take to avoid the H1N1 virus and other communicable diseases. They include:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue away after using it.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water particularly after you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth as germs spread easily that way.
- Avoid any unnecessary contact with anyone who is sick.

Here are some additional measures that Johnson College is taking.

- We're posting this notice on the College website (www.johnson.edu) so that students and parents can understand the precautions we're taking. Should there be any additional information to communicate, we'll post updates to the website and contact students as soon as practical.
- We currently have relationships with a local medical clinic and access to local hospital emergency rooms. We are currently identifying local primary care physicians that will see Johnson College students if necessary. (Obviously, we strongly recommend you to use your primary care physician if necessary but we want to have supplemental resources if needed.)
- We're installing hand sanitizers in the cafeteria and in the computer labs. Particularly in the computer labs, please wipe down keyboards before and after you use them.
- Each classroom will be supplied with a box of tissues and disinfectant hand wipes which faculty and students can use as desired. These supplies are being ordered and will be available as soon as possible.
- We're continuing to monitor H1N1 outbreaks on other college campuses so that we are updated on the latest precautionary measures that can be taken.

Finally, if you wish to read more about the H1N1 virus, below is the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention's website that provides information about the H1N1 virus.

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

Obviously, we can't anticipate everything that might happen but we believe these precautions should help us deal with this possible challenge. Please let us know if the staff at Johnson College can help you in any way. We'll continue to provide you with updates as needed.