

# SWINE FLU (H1N1) VIRUS RESPONSE PLAN

Updated May 4, 2009

**Provided by the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Evergreen Health & Counseling Center**

The Evergreen State College has established the following plan to respond to the emergence of swine flu (H1N1 virus). Our plan is based on guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

We have prepared the following plan to guide our communication and action on this issue. It is flexible and will be updated as new information about swine flu becomes available.

## 1) **Communication with the Campus Community**

- a) We have established a **Web page** with health information related to swine flu: <http://www.evergreen.edu/health/flu>. The page contains links to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO) and Thurston County Public Health & Social Services swine flu web pages. We have also created a Web page outlining our plan for institutional response to swine flu. It is located on the college's Emergency Preparedness Web site <http://www.evergreen.edu/facilities/emergency/home.htm>.
- b) We are sending **periodic emails** to faculty, staff and students apprising them of the risks and strategies for responding to the risks of this disease. Via these emails we have informed community members about the symptoms of the disease, and how to respond to these symptoms should they occur.
- c) We have been in communication with **students traveling abroad** to guide them in their decision-making related to their plans.
- d) We are providing **information on request to new students and others** to help them understand the risk factors and our institutional response.

## 2) **Promoting strategies for reducing the potential transmission of swine flu, should it occur locally.** These strategies have been endorsed by Centers for Disease Control and American College Health Association.

- a) **Developing and promoting a continuum of "social distancing" strategies**
  - i) We are developing and communicating a continuum of "social distancing" strategies ranging from avoiding contact with sick people and staying home when you are sick to cancellation of large public gatherings, cancellation of classes and potential campus closure. These will be implemented based on evolving circumstances.
  - ii) We are communicating to students and faculty that students who suspect they have the disease should not attend class and should follow the Guidelines for Prevention, Care and Recovery posted on our Web site.
  - iii) We are communicating with employees that if they suspect they have the disease they should stay home from work and follow the Guidelines for Prevention, Care and Recovery posted on our Web site.

- b) **Hand washing and use of hand sanitizer**
    - i) We are encouraging staff, faculty and students to purchase and use hand sanitizer.
    - ii) We will encourage staff, faculty and students to purchase protective masks if circumstances warrant.
    - iii) We are communicating with faculty, staff and students to promote effective hand hygiene.
  - c) **Covering Cough.** We are promoting the practice of covering coughing and sneezing.
- 3) **Preparing for swine flu (H1N1) cases on campus should they occur.**
- a) We have been and will continue to work with the Thurston County Health Department to develop appropriate responses.
  - b) We are following CDC guidelines for higher education and modeling our response on those being developed by other colleges and universities.
  - c) Should a probable or confirmed case of H1N1 occur in our campus community or adjacent communities, we will implement and communicate the appropriate social distancing strategies. These measures will be guided by the professional judgment of the Thurston County Health Department and the CDC.
  - d) We are encouraging staff, faculty and students to **report probable (as determined by a medical professional) and confirmed cases of swine flu** to the college via the campus dispatch office (867-6832).
- 4) **We have implemented an ongoing infrastructure to allow us to respond to new developments as they unfold.**
- a) We have a team meeting to update and adapt our **Pandemic Flu Plan** to accommodate the current circumstances.
  - b) We have convened a **Flu Response Planning Group** that includes staff from the Health and Counseling Center, Student Affairs, Residential and Dining Services, the Emergency Preparedness office, Facilities, Police Services, and College Relations. The group is meeting regularly to monitor the situation, share information, drive communication and refine plans and responses.

## Swine Flu Resources

**Evergreen Swine Flu Health Information** <http://www.evergreen.edu/health/flu>

**Thurston County Health and Social Services Department – Swine Flu Information**  
<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/personalhealth/influenza/swineflu.html>

**Washington State Department of Health** <http://www.doh.wa.gov/swineflu/default.htm>

**Centers for Disease Control** <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/index.htm>

**Centers for Disease Control – What to Do if You Get the Flu**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/sick.htm>

**World Health Organization** <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>