

April 28, 2009

RE: Swine Influenza Preparedness and Prevention

Dear Faculty:

I want to assure you that Purdue University is closely monitoring developments of the outbreak of the swine influenza. Purdue coordinates with state and local officials to monitor and minimize the impact of a public health emergency.

A community-wide task force for emergency preparedness convened in 2006 and has been actively planning for the potential of a health emergency. Although the swine influenza has not been declared a pandemic, there are plans and procedures in place to ensure an effective response.

Presently, there are no changes to University operations or activities as a result of swine influenza. University leadership, health services, public health, and emergency management personnel will implement a response plan as appropriate.

Purdue is committed to providing up-to-date information on swine influenza and its potential impact on our community. Officials at Purdue University's Office of Environmental Health and Public Safety and the Purdue Student Health Center continue to monitor the situation.

For updates and prevention tips, please visit:

http://www.purdue.edu/emergency_preparedness/

In addition, here are some other helpful external links:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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

World Health Organization (WHO)

<http://who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/>

For the time being the best thing that everyone can do is to practice good hygiene, be vigilant, and know where to find accurate and timely information (see attachment below).

Sincerely yours,



Randy Woodson
Provost

Stop the spread of germs that make you and others sick!*

Serious respiratory illnesses such as influenza are spread by:

- Coughing or sneezing
- Unclean hands

To help stop the spread of germs

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands
- Dispose of used tissues in the wastebasket

Clean your hands after coughing or sneezing

- Wash with soap and water (extend your usual washing time)
- OR, clean with an alcohol-based cleaner

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth

- Germs are spread in this way, and you may have touched something contaminated since you last washed your hands

Practice good health habits

- Get plenty of sleep, manage your stress
- Drink plenty of fluids, eat nutritious food
- Be physically active

Avoid exposure and close contact with sick people

- People with influenza are contagious 24 hours before they have symptoms, and as much as 7 days after. Therefore, avoid contact with anyone who has had the flu recently, or anyone you know has been exposed.
- If you have visited Mexico in the past 2-3 weeks or have had physical contact with someone who has, it is wise to monitor yourself closely for symptoms of the flu.
- If you develop symptoms, go to your doctor for diagnosis and treatment within the first 48 hours. Do not go to class, work or run errands. Antivirals are ineffective after 48 hours of symptoms.
- If a fellow student, faculty or staff person, coworker or family member develops flu symptoms, urge them to get to the doctor for diagnosis and to avoid contact with others. Protect yourself by making sure they know about these health recommendations.

*Information sources: www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/covercough.htm and www.cdc.gov/swineflu/mitigation.htm; PUSH medical staff.