



April 27, 2009

Dear students, staff, administrators and faculty:

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is actively investigating isolated human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) in several states (CA, TX, OH, KS, NY) and is continuously updating investigation information. Information on swine flu can be found at the following sites:

- General information(<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/investigation.htm>)
- CDC Health Advisory(http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/pdf/HAN_042509.pdf)
- CDC Travel Health Precaution for Mexico(<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/contentSwineFluMexico.aspx>) were issued Sunday.
- www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonanl/swine_flu/swine

As of this date, the U.S. cases of this virus have been mild and treatable. We are fortunate to be affiliated with St. Peter's Hospital and have been in dialogue with their staff and the New York State Department of Health. However, due to the potentially rapid spread of this illness, Siena College is now recommending the following actions:

1. Monitor your email regularly for further announcements via the Health Service website and College email.
2. All students, staff and faculty should review and implement current CDC recommendations for good health habits. Refer to the site: Preventing the Flu: Good Health Habits Can Help Stop Germs
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/habits.htm?s_cid=swineFlu_outbreak_003
 - Spread of this swine influenza A (H1N1) virus is thought to be happening in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.
3. Students who experience the following symptoms should call the **Health Services 783- 2554** (faculty and staff should contact their primary care physician):
 - fever 100°F plus cough or sore throat, OR
 - Recent onset of at least two of the following:
 - rhinorrhea or nasal congestion
 - sore throat
 - cough
 - fever or feverishness

- some people with swine flu also have reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea
4. Students should review and update their personal plan in the event that the College needs to close. As of this date, there are no closures planned and we are taking *all direction* from the emergency management agencies, NY State Department of Health, and St. Peter's Hospital. Faculty and Staff will be provided direction from Human Resources regarding any changes in work schedules or other matters.
 5. If you have *recently* returned from Mexico, the CDC recommends:
 - Pay close attention to your health for 7-10 days after your return.
 - If you become sick with a fever plus a cough, sore throat or have trouble breathing during this period, see a doctor. When you make the appointment, tell the doctor—
 - your symptoms,
 - where you traveled, and
 - if you have had close contact with a sick person or farm animals.
This way, he or she can be aware that you have traveled to an area reporting swine Influenza.
 6. Students who are currently out of the U.S. should carefully monitor public health announcements in your current country of residence, as well as the above listed CDC sites. Seek immediate treatment if you become ill.

If at any point you should have questions, please review the most up to date information on www.siena.edu/pandemicinfo or contact Health Services at (518)783-2554.

Sincerely,

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