



Dear Parent(s):

On June 11 the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic of the H1N1 virus. Siena College continues to monitor the situation and remains in close communication with state and local health departments.

As you plan for your student's return to campus, we are encouraging you to develop a plan that addresses both how they can reduce the risk of illness and how you will respond quickly should your student become ill and/or the College experiences an outbreak.

Please discuss with your student some of the common sense precautions to prevent exposure to and spread of influenza. Additionally, we recommend that you advise them to visit Health Services immediately if they develop any flu like symptoms.

- Wash hands often. Frequent hand washing and the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer is the most effective means to prevent the spread of infection.
- Cover the nose or mouth when coughing or sneezing; avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.

### **Be Prepared**

It's important to plan ahead. Have a discussion now to develop your own family response plan. It is essential that you and your student have discussed how they will get home quickly in the event of a personal illness or a campus emergency. It is important that you have this plan in place should your student be advised by our Health Services that they cannot stay on campus due to the care required for their illness or the fact that they are contagious. If you live out of the area, we ask that you have a plan with a relative who may live within the area for your student to go to, until they can return to your care.

In a Campus wide emergency the College will communicate emergency information to your student with the Siena Alert System. This mass notification system enables College officials to send urgent text alerts to cell phones with text message capability as well as e-mail accounts. The student is responsible for subscribing to the Siena Alert System and for any charges the service provider may impose for delivering the text messages. I recommend your student access the following Website to register for Siena Alert System: [www.siena.edu/sienaalert](http://www.siena.edu/sienaalert).

We also ask that you and your student familiarize yourselves with the College's emergency information page at <http://www.siena.edu/emergencyinfo>. This page provides basic "what to do information" in the case of a particular type of emergency as well as contact information and resources.

We will keep you updated with information about the status of the H1N1 influenza at Siena as it becomes available to us.

Sincerely,  
Carrie Hogan, MSN, ANP  
Director, Health Services