



Dear Student:

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 return to campus, we are encouraging you to develop a plan that addresses both how you can minimize your own risk of illness and how you will respond quickly should you become ill and/or the College experiences an outbreak.

In the meantime, below is a list of reminders on how you can protect yourself.

- Wash your 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 your nose or mouth when you cough or sneeze; avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- If you get sick, seek medical help; stay at home away from classes and work to minimize your contact with others.

Be Prepared

It's important to plan ahead. Have a family discussion now to develop your own individual response plan. This means that you should have a plan in place to get home quickly in the event of a personal illness or a campus emergency. If you live a considerable distance away or internationally, you will need to have a plan that includes an alternative living arrangement off campus. If it is determined that the College must close in an extreme circumstance, College officials will expect all students to leave campus.

The College will communicate emergency information to you 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. You are responsible for individually subscribing to the Siena Alert system and for any charges your service provider may impose for delivering the text messages. I recommend you access the following Website to register for Siena Alert: www.siena.edu/sienaalert.

We also ask that you familiarize yourself 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.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to your return to campus.

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