Walled Lake Central

H1Ni Pandemic Flue Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is WLC doing about H1N1 flu (swine flu)?

A: Walled Lake administration and health officials are monitoring the outbreak. A committee with cross-district representation is reviewing the district plan already in place for response to an infectious disease outbreak. This includes assuring that health care providers have adequate supplies, information, and protocols, and that communications are regularly updated.

Q: What precautions can I take?

A: Wash your hands frequently with soap and water. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze (then throw out the tissue). If you are ill, stay home to protect others.

Q: What else should I do?

A: Stay informed of the latest developments regarding H1N1. As information about this outbreak is constantly changing, please check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/h1n1 and the World Health Organization at www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/ for the most-updated information about H1N1.

Q: Is there a vaccine for the swine flu?

A: A novel H1N1 vaccine is currently in production and should be ready for the public in the fall, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Once the vaccine is available, local medical providers will follow CDC guidance as to who will receive it first. A priority list can be viewed at www.cdc.gov/h1n1.

Q: What do I do if I think have the flu?

A: Swine flu, like other flu, is a respiratory illness. The common symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. If you have a fever higher than 100 degrees along with other symptoms, please call your medical provider to determine whether you should be tested for flu. The following warning signs need urgent medical attention: difficulty breathing or shortness of breath; pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen; confusion; fever higher than 102 degrees.

Q: What recommendations does the school have for students in class?

A: In addition to being vigilant about the health recommendations listed above, an important part of limiting the spread of infectious disease is social distancing. Ordinarily, the flu virus cannot spread beyond 3 feet. Students with a fever higher than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, plus respiratory symptoms, should be directed to get medical evaluation and not attend class. Students need to be proactive in notifying their instructors if they will be absent and making alternative arrangements with their instructors.
Q: What is Tamiflu, and should I be taking it?

A: Tamiflu is an anti-viral medicine available by prescription. However, at this time the public health recommendation is that Tamiflu only be used if your physician determines you are ill with H1N1 and that you are at increased risk for complications, according to MSU University Physician Beth Alexander. This strain of flu already is developing some resistance to anti-viral medications, and unnecessary use or overuse of antiviral medications may make them ineffective when they are really needed.

Additional FAQs for teachers

Q: As an instructor, how can I prepare for a pandemic?

A: Keep your grade book up to-date for all course sections. Use electronic means of communication including your personal website for course content and e-mail and other electronic networking for messaging. Ask students to stay home if they have flu-like symptoms and to keep the attendance office informed of when they will return. Teachers are encouraged at the beginning of the semester to consider alternative ways of communicating with students and providing course material, alternatives for making up assignments and taking examinations and contingencies for alternative instructors should the teacher of record become ill.

Q: What latitude do instructors have to cancel/suspend classes?

A: The decision to cancel or suspend classes is a district decision, not an individual teacher decision.

Q: What if more than half of my class is out ill?

A: It’s best to continue to meet. Be prepared to provide an alternative way of obtaining the course content via electronic means. This is a teacher decision based on how the course content is being delivered.

Q: Should instructors take an active role in sending students home if they appear sick?

A: Teachers may not know if a student is ill and, when they do, may not be in a position to determine whether the illness constitutes a reason to send the student home. However, it is appropriate for an instructor to remind students not to attend class if they have flu-like symptoms. Students should notify the attendance office when they will be absent.

Q: What should instructors do if they are ill?

A: If you are ill with flu-like symptoms, notify your department and stay home to avoid contact with others. To allow academic units to take appropriate action, instructors should notify their units if they are to be absent and have not otherwise made suitable arrangements regarding their classes.

Q: Do students need doctor verification/test results showing they have swine flu to have absences excused?

A: No. However, students do need to inform their teachers of their absence. Teachers should rely on their best judgment if students ask for special dispensation related to missing academic work because of the H1N1 (swine flu).
Q: If a student misses an extraordinary amount of time, will they lose credit for classes?

A: The student needs to contact the teacher. Each student’s situation is different. When special or unusual circumstances occur, the teacher may postpone assignment of the student's final grade in a course by use of an incomplete grade (I). Teachers are encouraged to provide reasonable accommodations.