

Questions and Answers related to H1N1 and the University

What is the university doing to prepare and respond to an H1N1 influenza outbreak on campus?

The university has an H1N1 Preparedness Planning committee comprised of representatives from across campus. The university is working closely with public health officials in monitoring flu conditions and to prepare for flu season. Since the emergence of H1N1 in the spring of 2009, the H1N1 preparedness planning committee have been meeting regularly to:

- Develop an H1N1 action plan and business continuity plan
- Implement educational plan on prevention strategies and infection control measures based on current recommendations from the Public Health Agency of Canada and Interior Health Authority
- Prepare for potentially high levels of absenteeism
- Communicate with the TRU community on H1N1 related issues through my tru e-mail and on the webpage http://www.tru.ca/hsafety/swine_influenza.html

What is my responsibility as a student?

- If you are ill with influenza like illness (ILI) stay home for 7 days from the onset of your symptoms
- Advise your professors that you are ill with the flu
- Arrange with your professors what must be done to complete class work, assignments, and examinations
- If you are ill longer than 7 days due to complications from ILI then a note from a doctor will be required upon return to school

What is my responsibility as a staff member?

- If you are ill with influenza like illness (ILI) stay home for 7 days from the onset of your symptoms
- Advise your supervisor that you are ill with the flu or caring for someone with the flu
- Report your ill time using Banner
- If you are ill longer than 7 days due to complications from ILI then a note from a doctor will be required upon return to work

What is my responsibility as a faculty member?

- If you are ill with influenza like illness (ILI) stay home for 7 days from the onset of your symptoms
- Advise your chair or dean that you are ill with the flu or caring for someone with the flu
- Report your ill time using Banner
- If you are ill longer than 7 days due to complications from ILI then a note from a doctor will be required upon return to work
- Support students who require special accommodation due to influenza like illness
- Report to chair or dean of any ILI related absenteeism in your courses.

What is my responsibility as an administrator?

- If you are ill with influenza like illness (ILI) stay home for 7 days from the onset of your symptoms
- Advise your 2nd in command that you are ill with the flu or caring for someone with the flu
- Assist the university, by promoting infection control practices recommended by the University to your staff and faculty.
- Support your staff/faculty and provide accommodation to those who are absent due to ILI or at home caring for a family member with ILI.
- Monitor, track, and report all H1N1 related absenteeism to Human Resources

Will I be able to continue with my travel plans?

University related travel:

- TRU will follow the travel restrictions outlined by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada as it relates to faculty, administrators, and students on university business or student opportunities. If there are no travel restrictions it is business as usual.

Personal travel:

- This is an individual decision; however it is recommended that you check the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada webpage for the latest information on travel. This organization has different levels of alert for travel. If the alert states do not travel to XXX country then it would be prudent to follow that advice. Here's the website

For the latest information on travel go to: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/>

Will the university close due to H1N1?

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Interior Health Authority (IHA) do not recommend widespread proactive closure of schools. This measure may not be effective in preventing transmission and the benefits of keeping schools open currently outweighs the risk of transmission in these settings. This recommendation will be monitored and reviewed based on the local situation.

In certain circumstances the reactive closure of some schools may be required. The decision to reactively close a school is made with the local public health officials in accordance with provincial legislation. One situation where school closure might be considered is if the overall absenteeism (faculty, staff, and students) impacts the safety of school operations. It is unlikely that this step will be necessary particularly if all members of the university community consistently practice the prevention strategies such as: hand washing, coughing or sneezing into your elbow, and staying home when ill with the flu.