



From: Official Announcements - All UConn Staff [UCONN_STAFF-L@LISTSERV.UCONN.EDU] on behalf of PRES - Mike [president@UCONN.EDU]
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2009 4:36 PM
To: UCONN_STAFF-L@LISTSERV.UCONN.EDU
Subject: [UCONN_STAFF-L] Information on UConn's Pandemic Readiness

Dear Students, Staff, and Faculty,

I know that many of you have heard about the potential for an influenza pandemic and are probably wondering what the University is doing to prepare. I thought I'd take a moment to tell you a little about our readiness.

Before I do that, though, I'd like to ask our students to share the information that follows with their parents and family -- send them a copy of this e-mail, or give them a call and let them know you're well and what we're doing to look out for the members of our community. I know they worry about you and I know they'd like to hear what's going on at UConn.

First, at this point, UConn has no suspected or known cases of the influenza virus (H1N1 Influenza A), for which the nation and world have been put on alert. We're engaged in daily communications with state officials, including the Connecticut Department of Public Health, to share the latest information regarding suspected and confirmed flu cases. In these discussions, we seek suggestions and advice from officials. They are asking us to remain vigilant and monitor the community for any possible cases and to encourage sound preventive practices (such as frequent and correct hand washing). In addition, they are asking that we try to avoid instilling anxiety in people by maintaining our normal operations to the extent possible, while continuing to communicate with members of our community.

Second, we have a top-notch group in all of our operational areas -- from Student Health Services, to Public Safety, to Student Affairs, to Operations, to Academic Affairs, to Human Resources. Representatives of these and other groups form a core response team, with an established plan to address actual and potential emergencies, including a pandemic. This group is always ready to act. I stay in close touch with this group. In fact, I met with them just today to ensure we are all familiar with the roles we might play in gathering information, making decisions, and communicating with different constituencies in our community.

On this point, I want to again remind you that we have some very good resources and information available for students, faculty, and staff on our Student Health Services Web site:

http://www.shs.uconn.edu/swine_flu.html

The Web site provides information on what you can do to prevent transmission of the flu and what to do if you believe you may be experiencing symptoms.

Also, we will continue to post the latest information and alerts regularly on this Web site. I encourage you to visit it frequently and to share it with your friends and family. This is one way that UConn can help the community beyond the borders of our campuses.

I know you may be wondering about the future -- What about exams? What about Commencements? What about the Summer Session? At this point, again noting that we do not have any suspected cases and recognizing the importance of continuity of our semester and operations, we are moving forward as usual. I do want to emphasize, however, that we are carefully monitoring the situation, communicating regularly among ourselves and with state officials, and will alert you immediately should new information arise, or should any events or operations require adjustments.

Finally, I know I've said it before, but I'll say it again -- this is a tremendously caring and compassionate community. I'm grateful for how we all look out for one another and ask that we continue to do so in these final days of the academic year.

Sincerely,

Mike

Michael J. Hogan
President