Recently, there has been a great deal of national health focus on the H1N1 influenza virus (also known as "Swine Flu"). Colleges and universities across the nation have been encouraged by federal, state, and local levels of authority to have plans in place to prepare for and respond to an H1N1 pandemic. We take the health and safety of our faculty, staff, and students seriously and as a result we have been modifying our current pandemic plan to respond to a potential H1N1 outbreak on our campus.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage our campus community to follow the guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) which recommends frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue (or by sneezing or coughing into the crooks of your elbows), and avoiding contact with those that are sick. If you do become ill with the flu, the CDC recommends self-isolation until fever-free for 24-hrs.

The CDC also recommends seasonal flu vaccinations and H1N1 vaccinations, when available. If you are experiencing any symptoms that are associated with the virus please report your condition to your supervisor. Supervisors and Managers should report absenteeism possibly related to the H1N1 or Seasonal flu to human resources.

We will continue to actively monitor this situation and will keep you informed of any information that can aid you in staying healthy and safe as it becomes available. Please visit the following websites for useful information.

Centers for Disease Control

www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/

Top Five Ways College Kids Will Get Swine Flu

http://abcnews.go.com/Health/SwineFluNews/story?id=8436915

Please stay healthy and safe.