



A Guide for UW-Whitewater Staff What You Can Do About the Flu

H1N1 influenza (a.k.a. “swine flu”) first appeared in the U.S. last spring and continued to infect people throughout the summer. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this new strain of influenza seems to be particularly infectious to people between the ages of 5 and 24, so all college campuses must prepare for the possibility that a lot more people than usual could get sick this year. Please help protect your own health and that of your campus community by learning what precautions you can take to lower the risk of spreading or contracting influenza and making a Personal Influenza Plan just in case you do get sick.

For more information, go to <http://www.uww.edu/marketingandmedia/flu.php>

Precautions and Planning

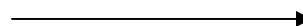
- **Get your own thermometer, ibuprofen, acetaminophen, and tissues.**
- **Maintain your own supply of hand soap and/or gel hand sanitizer** (at least 60% alcohol content).
- **Bookmark**
<http://www.uww.edu/uhcs/whatsnew.html>
<http://www.uww.edu/>
and check regularly. The only thing we can be certain of is that the situation will change throughout the semester, but we can’t predict exactly how, so you should keep checking in.
- **Make a Personal Influenza Plan.** Do you have any health condition that might put you at higher risk* for more severe illness, according to the CDC? Where will you recuperate if you get sick? How will you travel there? Where do you keep the contact info for everyone you should alert if you have to self-isolate (family, employer, and friends)? Use the information on the reverse side of this sheet to help you think through your plan.
- **Start a good hand washing habit.** Always wash with soap/water or hand sanitizer for at least 20 seconds before eating, drinking, or preparing food; after using the bathroom; and if you cough or sneeze into a tissue.
- **Practice coughing and sneezing into your sleeve.** Viruses can’t stay viable as long or spread as easily from there as they can from your hands.
- **Try to keep hands away from eyes, nose, and mouth.** Wash hands more often if you smoke or bite your nails.

- **When seasonal flu shots are offered, get one** (cost: \$15 at UHCS, walk-in clinic 9/23, 8am-noon).
- **If H1N1 shots become available, get them.** Shipment of vaccine from the State of Wisconsin to campus cannot be confirmed at this time. Watch for updates on the UWW website. There will be no fee if/when they become available.
- **If you are in close contact with someone who has the flu...don’t panic, and don’t blame.** Influenza may be very common on campus this fall, and people may get sick despite their best efforts. Most people *will not* need to take any special actions based on ordinary exposure.

However, if you have a “high-risk”* medical condition (asthma for which you take daily medication; other chronic pulmonary disease’ cancer; cardiovascular disease; diabetes; pregnancy; weakened immune system; or kidney, liver, or neurological disorder), contact your healthcare provider promptly. Medications may be recommended to prevent influenza infection in some cases.

Cold vs. Flu	
Comes on gradually Fever unlikely Cough possible Sore throat possible Stomach feels okay Body aches unlikely Chills unlikely Stuffy/runny nose possible	Comes on quickly Fever probable Dry cough possible Sore throat possible Vomiting, diarrhea possible Body aches possible Chills possible Stuffy/runny nose possible

See other side for what to do if you do get sick.





If You Do Get Sick...

Activate the Personal Influenza Plan you made at the beginning of the semester.

<p>Take your temperature. If you have a fever (100° F/37.8° C or higher), you must stay home from work and class until you have been completely fever-free (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours, and you feel well. For most people, this will be 3 to 5 days, but it could be longer.</p> <p>*If you have a “high-risk” medical condition (asthma for which you take daily medication; other chronic pulmonary disease; cancer; cardiovascular disease; diabetes; pregnancy; weakened immune system; or kidney, liver, or neurological disorder), contact your health care provider promptly. Although antiviral medications are not recommended for most healthy individuals, they are recommended for some “high-risk” cases and should be taken as soon as possible. Antibiotics do not have any effect because influenza is caused by a virus.</p> <p>Most people recover fully on their own without medical treatment. Drink fluids to stay hydrated, get plenty of rest, eat what you can, and use ibuprofen and acetaminophen, as directed, to manage fever and body aches. Contact your healthcare provider if you experience any of the warning signs listed below.</p>	<p>Tell your “close contacts” you may have the flu. Anyone that you had close contact (less than 3 feet for an hour or more) within 24 hours before you started to feel sick. That way, if any of them has a “high-risk” health condition, they can contact their healthcare provider for advice and possibly medication.</p> <p>Self-isolate. While you are self-isolating, you should not go any social events, and you should avoid public transportation. Use hand sanitizer before going out of your house, cover your nose and mouth with a surgical mask, and shield others from coughs and sneezes.</p> <p>Flu viruses typically survive on surfaces for 2 to 8 hours, so do not share towels, clothing, eating utensils, telephones, keyboards, remote controls, etc., while you are infectious. Standard cleaning products should be sufficient to remove virus from surfaces. A bleach solution is not necessary, but water alone is not enough.</p> <p>If possible, use a separate bathroom while you are sick. Wear a mask when you are moving thru shared living space</p> <p>The good news? If the thing that made you sick was H1N1, you can’t get it again. But you can still catch colds, seasonal influenza, and other flu-like illnesses, so keep up the hand washing! Because you won’t necessarily know which virus made you sick, seasonal and H1N1 vaccination are still recommended.</p>
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Seek immediate medical attention if you develop any of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shortness of breath or trouble breathing - Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen - Severe or persistent vomiting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confusion or sudden dizziness - Flu symptoms that improve but then return suddenly with fever and worse cough

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), advice current as of August 19, 2009
Adapted from University Health Service, UW-Madison