

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF RESIDENCE HALL STUDENTS REGARDING THE H1N1 (SWINE FLU) VIRUS

As you likely know, the H1N1 virus has continued to surface across the United States during the summer months. While UWRF has not experienced any confirmed cases of H1N1, several colleges and universities have begun the fall semester with isolated outbreaks. UWRF has been and continues to engage in preparation activities should we experience an outbreak on our campus.

Here is what you need to know should your son/daughter display the symptoms of H1N1 or should we experience an outbreak on our campus.

- ✓ **First and foremost, upon displaying the symptoms associated with H1N1 (fever of 100 degrees F/37.8 C or higher, cough, sore throat, body aches, nasal congestion, runny nose, and possible diarrhea or vomiting), tell your student not to go to work or class when they are symptomatic. Students should be fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications) before they return to the residence hall, work or class.**
- ✓ Because we do not have private bathrooms and single rooms on campus and students cannot self-isolate as directed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), students who live less than 4 hours from campus are expected to make arrangements to return home, live with a friend or family member off campus until they are fever free (without the use of fever-reducing med) for 24 hours. When students leave campus, they should e-mail housing@uwrf.edu to inform us that they have left campus and an address and phone number where they can be reached. Students should also e-mail us upon their return to let us know that they are back.
- ✓ Students who are more than 4 hours away and international students will be expected to self-isolate, refrain from close contact with their roommate, and wear a mask anytime they use the community bathroom. Self-isolated students who are meal plan holders will be given instructions for optional daily meal delivery.
- ✓ Students should communicate with their instructor via e-mail or phone if they have to miss classes due to illness. Your student is responsible for obtaining class notes they may have missed and for making up any related class work in a reasonable time frame. For brief related illnesses students will not be asked to supply medical excuses.
- ✓ Students should report to their Resident Assistant via e-mail or phone that they have flu-like related symptoms. This is used only for internal reporting purposes.
- ✓ In most cases healthy individuals who develop influenza symptoms do not need to seek medical attention. Those with underlying medical conditions who develop influenza symptoms or who are directly exposed to influenza should contact their health care provider. Currently, Wisconsin is only testing in rare situations for the H1N1 virus.

This fall, there will be vaccination clinics on the UWRF campus for students, faculty and staff. **Please encourage your son/daughter to receive both the H1N1 vaccines and the annual influenza vaccine.** More details will be given to your student regarding the vaccination clinics in the weeks ahead. Please note that the seasonal influenza vaccine is already available.

In the event we have increased incidences of students with H1N1 symptoms in our residence halls, the custodial staff increases their cleaning activities in high traffic areas including bathrooms, lobbies and common areas.

The best defense against all flu viruses continues to be good hygiene practices including frequent hand washing, cleaning of hard surfaces more often than usual, sneezing into your arm, covering coughs and avoiding unnecessary close contact with individuals who are symptomatic.

Information and direction from the CDC and/or County Health Department may change depending upon the severity of an H1N1 outbreak. After this initial mailing, the UWRF website will contain the latest information regarding our protocols and procedures during a pandemic. Please check www.uwrf.edu/emergency for updates.