

## **Guilford College Swine Flu (H1N1) Protocol**

The following is an outline of the Guilford College protocol to be used in the event that a student presents with severe flu symptoms in the Student Health Center or in the event of notification by an outside physician regarding a Guilford student who has tested positive for the H1N1 virus (Swine Flu).

1. Students presenting in Student Health with severe symptoms will be referred to Urgent Medical Family Care (UMFC), a partner with our Student Health Center, for evaluation.
2. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) recommend isolation of the student for one (1) week.
3. On or off campus students will be encouraged to self-isolate (i.e., stay away from others) and avoid exposure to the public. This is the latest procedure being recommended by the CDC in addition to the one-week period of self-isolation being recommended by the CDC. It is likely that once a student is reported as positive a staff member from the Guilford County Health Department will also follow-up with the student.
4. Campus Life will then obtain the appropriate permission from the infected student to alert faculty members that one of their students has tested positive. Campus Life then communicates the following to the concerned faculty member: (1) do not inform other class members about the illness, (2) do remind class to go to student health if they have flu symptoms, do stay home and do not come to class if they have flu symptoms, wash hands, and take other standard protective measures, and (3) ask that the faculty members not count absences against the infected student.
5. The CDC has advised colleges to continue self-isolation in the event of increased cases on campus and the CDC is not recommending closure for institutions of higher education. In the event that Guilford College experiences more than 20 cases of active H1N1, before closing pursuant to Level 4 of the Guilford College Pandemic Operations Plan (POP), the Incident Command Group (ICG) will consult with local public health officials regarding appropriate next steps.

It is important to note that the virus only lives on surfaces for eight (8) hours and standard, daily cleaning kills the virus. This does not necessitate a need for increased cleaning by the housekeeping staff, but we would ask that all members of the Guilford Community stress the importance of hand washing, general hygiene, and appropriate diet and sleep. By the time a person is confirmed positive with the virus, any areas they have contacted would likely be virus-free due to the eight-hour lifespan of the virus on surfaces.

Finally, our area hospitals are treating anyone presenting with flu-like symptoms on an outpatient basis as if they had the common flu. They are not testing individuals for H1N1 unless they are very young, elderly, or have serious and/or complicating medical conditions.

Please click [here](#) to read the announcement from the White House, the Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, the Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, and the Secretary of Education Arne Duncan regarding H1N1 and a possible forthcoming voluntary vaccination program.