

CAMPUS FACULTY AND STAFF ADVISORY #3

September 9, 2009

Faculty, staff, and administrators are important partners in UCF's efforts to address the challenges of the H1N1 (swine flu) pandemic. During the summer and fall, several UCF students have been diagnosed with the H1N1 flu, and we expect to see many more cases. The average age of H1N1 patients is 20.

Most patients have experienced mild to moderate cases, do not require medical care, and have recovered within seven days.

People with the flu should be encouraged to isolate themselves from others. We encourage your consideration of this in setting deadline, makeup, and attendance policies and in deciding whether you should teach or call in a substitute.

Faculty can encourage students to see a health provider if they are experiencing symptoms, including a fever (100 degrees F), lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. However, faculty members cannot bar students from a class, and UCF cannot quarantine individuals or groups.

You may have more than the normal 5-10% of students miss classes. Because most cases of H1N1 do not require medical treatment, many students with H1N1 will not need to see a doctor and will not have a formal medical excuse for missing class.

Below are some considerations for faculty action:

- Make an alternate plan for class in case you are ill and must stay home.
- You may wish to plan for more technology-supported components for courses in the fall and spring. Recording lectures as podcasts, providing lecture notes or capturing narrated PowerPoint lectures as videos to put on either your course Web site or the Knights E-Mail SkyDrive would allow students to access important class material. For assistance, contact the Faculty Center at fctl@mail.ucf.edu.
- Visit the Faculty Center's Web site, www.fctl.ucf.edu, for a list of other tools and strategies that can help you effectively teach classes with more students absent.
- Find out if your department has faculty or staff identified to help post materials online quickly.
- Remember that associates (including staff) may need to miss work for your protection.
- We also recommend you follow prevention measures to protect yourselves. Wash your hands thoroughly several times a day and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth because germs spread that way.

For continuing updates and more information for faculty and staff, please visit the following Web sites:

UCF Health Services: www.hs.sdes.ucf.edu or www.ucf.edu/flu
Orange County Health Department: www.orchd.com
Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu or www.flu.gov

In addition, the Florida Department of Health has established a toll-free number, **877-352-3581**, to provide public health information and updates on the H1N1 flu. The line is staffed 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week, with information available in English, Spanish, and Creole.

We will continue to communicate regularly with you about this public health challenge. Thank you for your cooperation and dedication to our students' health and well-being.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Tace Crouse, Interim Director, Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning at tcrouse@mail.ucf.edu or Dr. Michael Deichen, Associate Director – Clinical Services, UCF Health Services at mdeichen@mail.ucf.edu.