

BACK TO SCHOOL and SWINE FLU

It is the obligation of schools and universities to make the workplace as safe as possible for its students and employees. Students and staff will soon be returning from summer vacation. With a swine flu pandemic raging, this preparation is of cardinal importance. Employers should put infection control measures and emergency plans into place NOW so that students and employees are fully protected.

The swine flu pandemic is a relatively mild one at the moment, but mutation may occur over time and make the disease more deadly. A pandemic may take months or years to run its course.

Some Safety Precautions

- Cover nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. Use facial tissue and throw the used tissue into the trash.
- Wash hands, especially after coughing or sneezing. For other vital times to wash your hands, see reference below.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If necessary, use particulate filtering respirator rated N95 or higher. This can be obtained at your local pharmacy.

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References cited:

CDC - *Novel H1N1 Flu (swine flu)*

Hand Washing– A Must @ universityhealthandsafety.net

NIOSH - *Occupational Health Issues Associated with H1N1 influenza virus (swine flu)*