

From: Toni O'Keeffe
Sent: May 1, 2009 3:13 PM
To: ML Employees; ML VIU Community
Cc: ML Emergency Mail Registrants
Subject: UPDATE: Influenza A H1N1

VIU's Health and Safety Services Office (HSSO) has provided the update below to ensure our employees and those visiting our campuses are informed and aware of the precautions VIU has undertaken related to managing the spread of Influenza A H1N1.

UPDATE: Human Swine Influenza - Known as Influenza A H1N1.

VIU ACTIVITIES:

VIU has been in contact with various health authorities regarding Influenza A H1N1. Our actions related to preventing the spread of this illness have been guided by VIHA and other emergency planning bodies.

VIU has installed hand sanitizing stations in high traffic areas at the Nanaimo campus and will be installing similar stations at our regional sites in the coming week. A WorkSafeBC video demonstrating proper hand washing technique is available on the Health and Safety Services website at <http://www.mala.ca/healthandsafety/SwineInfluenzaUpdate.asp>

VIU's HSSO has met with International Education and has reviewed all current and impending employee and student travel and study abroad programs.

VIU's HSSO has met, and will continue to meet, with multiple departments to discuss specific issues and concerns as they arise.

HSSO is also monitoring travel advisories issued by Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.

We will continue to monitor the Influenza A H1N1 situation through online resources such as: The Public Health Agency of Canada, BC Centre for Disease Control, Health Canada, and the World Health Organization.

No VIU institutional travel has been cancelled or postponed.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

If you are planning a trip in the next few weeks, please visit, <http://www.voyage.gc.ca/index-eng.asp> to see if there are any travel advisories related to your destination.

ILLNESS:

If you or someone you know is experiencing flu like symptoms, please call Healthlink BC by dialling **8-1-1** for advice. If you are unable to dial **8-1-1** from your location, call (604) 215-8110.

Employees and students that are experiencing any flu like symptoms are encouraged to stay home and seek treatment from a health care professional.

If you are experiencing flu like symptoms, and your health care professional believe these symptoms could be related to Influenza A H1N1, please report this information to Health and Safety Services at safety@viu.ca or by calling 250 740-6282. This information will allow us to monitor the safety of our campuses.

For ongoing updates or if you have any questions, please visit our website at: www.viu.ca/healthandsafety/index.asp or call 250 740-6283.

The following news release was issued May 1st, 2009 by the Province of British Columbia

https://owa2000.mala.bc.ca/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2009HSERV0047-000936.pdf This link also provides useful information on the worldwide impact, symptoms and precautions you can take related to this illness.

Toni O'Keeffe
Executive Director,
Communications & Public Relations
Vancouver Island University
toni.okeeffe@viu.ca
250 - 740 6341