



Office of the President

September 2, 2009

Dear Clayton State University Parent/Guardian:

We are pleased to have your son or daughter as a student at Clayton State University. We want the best for our students, and this extends beyond good grades and developing skills for their chosen careers. This also includes their health and well-being. We want to take this opportunity to provide the campus community and our CSU families' information pertaining to the H1N1 flu, more commonly referred to as "swine flu."

This fall's swine flu outbreak is predicted to be worse than the outbreak that occurred in the spring and prompted intense media attention. University officials have been working for months to prepare for a potentially severe outbreak. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has changed its initial recommendation about closing schools or institutions in the event of widespread infection. The current recommendation is to keep institutions open and attempt to isolate those affected by the flu. College students are considered a high risk group, and it is recommended that they follow the CDC recommendations, including being vaccinated against the illness when a vaccine becomes available.

If a student contracts the flu, the following actions are suggested:

1. Commuter students should not come to campus. According to the CDC, swine flu is considered potentially contagious for up to 7 days following the onset of flu symptoms. Therefore, they will need to stay at home until they have not had a fever or any flu symptoms for at least 24 hours.
2. Resident hall students will be asked to leave if they are able to do so. This is to avoid spreading infection amongst all the resident hall students and staff and to ensure they have appropriate care by a family member. We will work with local health care providers and parents to provide appropriate care until family members can make arrangements to pick-up the student.
3. If the outbreak is severe, the healthy students may be asked to leave the residence hall instead. For students who can't be moved, we are exploring options to house ill students in a specific area of Laker Hall.

To broadly engage the campus, we will hold campus forums, provide flu vaccinations, and discuss contingency plans *now* in the event that students contract the H1N1 flu. Please discuss this matter with your student. For more information, please go to the University Health Services website at <http://nursing.clayton.edu/uhs/default.htm> and the institution's Pandemic site at <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/pandemic/>.

Working together, we can all be prepared.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Hynes
Interim President

cc: Pandemic Committee Chairs