



There have been no suspected or confirmed cases of influenza A (H1N1) at the university. Dr. David L. Potter, president of North Georgia College & State University, sent the following message via e-mail to the campus community to share cautionary information with our students, faculty and staff.

May 1, 2009

Dear Members of the North Georgia Community,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the current information we have and our planning and preparedness regarding the evolving H1N1 influenza (commonly known as swine flu) outbreak. North Georgia College & State University has a standing Pandemic Influenza Response plan, and a task force of university administrators is monitoring the flu situation to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to protect the health of our campus community.

Cases of the H1N1 virus have been confirmed in the United States, and the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the current level of influenza pandemic alert from phase 4 to phase 5. As of May 1, 2009, there are no confirmed cases of the virus in Georgia, and **there are currently no suspected or confirmed cases of H1N1 influenza among the campus community at North Georgia.**

Ensuring the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff is our utmost concern. We encourage you to exercise simple, common-sense precautionary measures to protect your own health and the health of those around you, such as washing hands, covering your mouth when you cough, avoiding close contact with sick persons and staying home if you feel ill.

Personal prevention and hygiene continue to be the most effective health and safety measure individuals can take. Those steps and information about what students, faculty, and staff should do if they are sick are listed on the university's emergency information Web page at www.ngcsu.edu/emergency, which also provides easy access and links to the latest information we have available.

If students, faculty and staff demonstrate flu-like symptoms while on campus, they should go directly to Student Health Services at 280 West Main Street for evaluation and treatment, as needed. If you seek treatment off-campus, please notify Student Health Services or your immediate supervisor, so that we may take further action, if needed, on campus.

As an additional precaution, please suspend travel to Mexico, where the outbreak is thought to have originated, until further notice. We encourage any campus community members with travel plans to consult the latest travel advisories from the CDC at: www.cdc.gov/travel.

At this point, there is no immediate cause for concern or undue alarm, but we will continue to monitor the situation very closely. We are engaged in monitoring, preparedness, preventive measures, and planning as a matter of prudence and caution at this stage.

We encourage members of the community to remain aware of what is happening with regard to H1N1, to practice preventive hygiene, but not to be overly alarmed. To ensure accurate information regarding the university's response to this situation, please refrain from distributing unofficial, individual communication within the campus community. Official notices will be distributed from the Office of University Relations and posted online.

If you have any questions regarding appropriate precautions, please contact Student Health Services at 706-864-1948.

Dr. David L. Potter
President