



Dominican University College H1N1 Flu Virus Response Plan

Our college is very much concerned about the health of its students, faculty, academic and administrative staff. Due to the size of our institution, we communicate information and decisions quickly and efficiently on both our campuses. However, there are a certain number of Dominican fathers and boarding students who reside in the building. This makes the monitoring process somehow more complex.

We have formed a four member committee that meets regularly and closely monitors the flu outbreak and developments. The president of the university college is acting as president of the committee and he has the power of taking executive decisions.

The committee has proposed an action plan that is always subject of revision, depending on how the flu develops and how it affects members of our institution. It follows closely the recommendations offered by the municipal and provincial health services.

Our university college provide all its members with information on the nature of the virus and, above all, on the various preventive measures that allow each individual to practice self care.

Our plan of action is divided into two phases: the *Monitoring phase* and the *Epidemic phase*.

1. Monitoring Phase

In this phase we provide information to students, faculty, staff, and their relatives on how to recognize symptoms.

We repeatedly emphasize three important preventives measures: washing hands, coughing or sneezing into a tissue, and staying at home (or in the residency room) in case of illness. In order to carry out these measures, we install hand disinfectants at various points of the building, place bottles of disinfectant in each classroom and meeting rooms. We purchase and provide masks if the need of using them presents itself. We also put up signs and posters in various places regarding preventive methods (washrooms, stairs, etc.).

We demand students to monitor their health daily and to report the absence from the classes. In some cases, we will be prepared to amend academic rules concerning prolonged absences from classes.

We will establish and communicate a dedicated phone number in order to quickly receive any illness report.

2. Epidemic Phase

We enter this phase only if Public Health Agency of Canada communicates a recommendation in this sense to post-secondary institutions in Ontario.

We will establish consultations with local public health officials and develop strategies to recognize (e.g. high absenteeism) a general outbreak of the influenza virus.

We will communicate a warning about the spread of the virus to each individual by making phone calls. We will also provide information on how to access for vaccination when this will be available.

We will consider the closure of our university college only if the appropriate health authorities communicate a strong recommendation. Ultimately the president will have the authority to make the decision of closing the school. The president should be reachable at home, at the college, or wherever he travels to.

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