

**Residence Life Pandemic Response Policy  
Fisk University  
2009-2010**

Fisk University's Office of Student Life & Department of Residence Life continuously monitors the spread of the H1N1 virus locally, across the state, nationally and internationally. Fisk University's Pandemic Response Team, which consists of Public Safety, Residence Life, Administrative Services and the Office of the Provost have reviewed the institution's pandemic response plan and the President has approved a Campus Pandemic Plan to provide prevention information and implement the best response practices for the Fisk campus community. In order to combat the spread of H1N1 and the seasonal flu, Fisk has followed CDC recommendations regarding the action plan to safeguard the University Community.

**STUDENT LIFE RESPONSIBILITIES**

In order to address fears and to provide accurate information, we urge everyone to consult the [www.cdc.gov/h1n1](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1) website to get the latest information. Seasonal flu and H1N1 have identical symptoms which include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater), sore throat, muscle aches, cough, runny nose and fatigue. Other symptoms may include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. The virus is typically spread from person to person when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Fisk University's Office of Student Life and Residence Life Department reiterates the following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for college and university environments as effective proactive measures to safeguard health in the on-campus environment. The guidelines emphasize that institutions of higher education may act as a "point of spread," yet they also "recognize the need to balance risks of illness among faculty, students, and staff with the benefits of keeping students in classes." CDC currently does not recommend that institutions close or cancel classes or other large gatherings.

**To reduce the impact of influenza illness, all members of the College community are advised to take the following measures:**

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw the used tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based cleaners, especially after you cough or sneeze.
- Purchase and use hand sanitizers. (To support this recommendation Fisk University has placed hand sanitizers in Spence Hall, The University Library and all residence halls.)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth to reduce the potential spread of viruses such as influenza.
- Avoid eating or drinking after others.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

- Get the seasonal flu vaccine and the H1N1 vaccine when available.

Anyone who develops flu symptoms should immediately contact a health care provider. If you have flu-like illness, remain at home and away from other people except to see your personal physician. Guidelines from the CDC state that individuals who present flu symptoms should remain isolated until at least 24 hours after the fever has passed without the use of fever reducers (such as Tylenol or ibuprofen).

Wear a facemask – if available and tolerable – when sharing common spaces with other household members to help prevent spreading the virus to others. This is especially important if other household members are at high risk for complications from influenza.

If you must leave your Residence, wear your face mask if available and tolerable.

### **STUDENTS:**

Each student, within driving distance, should seek a family physician or an appointment with a primary care provider. Students diagnosed with flu or influenza-like illness (ILI) are encouraged to return to their off-campus home and remain at home until they no longer have fever without the aid of fever reducers. Students who live on campus and cannot return home should contact the Office of Student Life for a temporary room assignment in our designated area for

isolation until 24 hours their fever has subsided without the aid of fever reducers. For those who live too far away to go home, or who are otherwise unable to leave, the University instructs students to refrain from going to classes and limit interaction with others. The University has designated Shane Hall as a place where sick students can stay temporarily on a special floor in Shane Hall. Residence Life staff will check on quarantined students every few hours and deliver special meals from the Cafeteria. Shane is limited only to students who have been assigned to that area. Other students are not allowed to visit as guests and should communicate with other students via email or telephone instead.

Similarly, if a student has a roommate who has contracted the flu virus, Residence Life staff may coordinate a temporary move to a different room or the isolated area in Shane Hall as needed. If symptoms persist or in the case of increased fever, shortness of breath as appropriate, chest pain or pressure, or rapid breathing, students should seek immediate medical attention.

Students who receive treatment from a community physician or their personal physician must provide verification of the date and time of their visit and diagnosis and provide such documentation to the Office of Student Life.

**Students should notify all course instructors by phone or electronically of the inability to attend class due to flu-related symptoms prior to the scheduled class time.** Only instructors have the authority to excuse students from class. Instructors have been asked by the Provost to review attendance policies in light of the CDC recommendations and present any revised attendance policies to students if changes are made. Instructors are reminded to be sensitive to this public health situation and use discretion as it relates to student attendance and revealing the identify of sick students.

Students who reside in on-campus housing must avoid personal contact with others and eat meals in the assigned residence hall room in the case of symptoms or in the designated isolation area in the case of diagnosis. Students with the flu will not be permitted in the Spence Hall Cafeteria. Living with someone who has the flu may mean you have been exposed to the virus, although it may not necessarily result in you becoming sick. If your roommate becomes sick, be certain to limit your contact with him or her and report to Residence Life Staff immediately. As a precaution, be certain to wash hands frequently, and sanitize all items of common use such as doorknobs, remote controls, refrigerators, computer keyboards and controls, Ipods, or other electronic items. You may consider studying outside of the room or watching television in a lounge or community area. The university's housekeeping staff has increased its vigilance and is complying with all CDC flu sanitation

recommendations. We will continue to monitor and follow all CDC recommendations and precautionary measures and pass them on to the student body.

If you are in self-isolation or assigned to the assigned isolation area in Shane Hall, please notify your Residence Hall Director by email (New Livingstone Hall [aowens@fisk.edu](mailto:aowens@fisk.edu) – Crosthwaite Hall [choward@fisk.edu](mailto:choward@fisk.edu) – Jubilee Hall [ycato@fisk.edu](mailto:ycato@fisk.edu)) or the Office of Student Life at 615-329-8597 to arrange for delivery of meals to you.

For more information, please visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/h1n1](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1)