

Pandemic Flu FAQs for Instructors/Faculty

Q: What steps is the College taking to reduce the risks of a pandemic flu?

A: The College has developed a H1N1 program focused on education and prevention. Details of the program can be found at MC's pandemic flu Web page <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/EDU/Plain2.aspx?id=4567>

Q: As an instructor, what should I do to prepare my students for pandemic flu?

A: Ensure course rosters for all course sections are up to-date, including an e-mail address and a telephone number for each student. Make certain all students have the instructor's contact information: e-mail address, office number, or contact information for other electronic messaging services.

Regularly encourage students to do the following: cover your cough and sneeze; clean your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner; and stay home if you are sick until at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of a fever-reducing medicine).

Faculty should avail themselves of the communication tools at hand, namely e-mail, voice mail, web pages, etc., to enhance the lines of communication with their students.

Q: What guidance should I provide students if they have an influenza-like illness?

A: Students should be encouraged to stay at home and to contact their instructors to let them know they have the flu. If a student is unable to make contact with an instructor, the student should contact the Dean of Students or a counselor.

Please allow greater flexibility with policies for class attendance and missed assignments and in the manner or timing by which students complete their work.

Q: As an instructor, what should I do if a student appears to be ill?

A: It may be difficult to discern if a student is ill, and even if they are ill, instructors are not expected to determine the nature of the illness. Only the student who may be ill may make the decision to stay at home. However, it is appropriate for the instructor to regularly remind all students in the class to stay home if they have influenza-like illness.

Q: Does a student need verification from a doctor to confirm they had H1N1 flu?

A: No. During a pandemic, the CDC recognizes that physicians and hospitals will experience large numbers of patients and will not be able to provide verifications for each patient. As usual, students should notify their instructors if they will not be attending classes.

Q: What should instructors do if they are ill?

A: If you are ill with influenza-like symptoms, stay at home and follow the normal protocol for notifying your department.

Q: Who makes the decision to cancel or suspend classes?

A: The decision to cancel or suspend classes is made by the College administration and is not an individual instructor decision.

Q: Where can faculty, staff, and students get more information regarding the College's pandemic flu plans including the latest updates?

A: Information is available at MC's pandemic flu Web page
<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/EDU/Plain2.aspx?id=4567>

October 16, 2009