

## What USF is Doing to Prepare for the H1N1 Virus

Developed by the USF Emergency Preparedness for Academic Continuity Team (EPACT)

### FAQs for Faculty and Students:

How do I deal with 'apparently sick' students in class?

Out of concern for health of the sick students and wellness of all other students in class, an instructor may ask students sick with contagious illness to not travel to class. If a visibly ill student should attempt to attend class, the instructor reserves the right to encourage the student to return to his/her residence. Instructors are advised to use best judgment and approach supported by common sense.

When and how should I excuse students from exams, quizzes, projects, and homework?

Based on the current H1N1 flu virus, it is likely many students will be out sick for 5-10 days during the semester. Students who are sick should email their instructor as soon as possible (preferably as soon as they know they will not be able to come/attend a class, rather than after the fact). This information, together with the instructor's makeup policy, will dictate how students will be able to make up lost work.

Can syllabi and grading policies be altered?

In order to accommodate instructional constraints brought on by emergency circumstances, it may be necessary for instructors to alter syllabi in terms of course content, assignments, examinations and/or grading policy. Students should monitor the main university site for declarations of emergency and their course blackboard sites for individual course changes.

### FAQs for Parents and Students:

#### 1. What is USF doing to prevent the spread of flu virus on campus?

USF has several initiatives to aid in H1N1 mitigation efforts including:

- Development of a dedicated website [www.usf.edu/h1n1](http://www.usf.edu/h1n1)
- Communication and marketing of accurate H1N1 prevention information and H1N1 treatment information, especially in high traffic areas
- Mirror stickers for bathrooms on campus to encourage proper hand washing
- Encouraging departments to increase supply of hand sanitizers
- Providing signage to make wall mounted sanitizer dispensers more prominent
- Cooperation of Student Health Services and Housing and Residential Education to educate residents and the residence hall staff on mitigating the effects of H1N1 in our communal population
- Making thermometers more accessible to students, especially those in residence halls

- Developing a plan within Student Health Services to care for a larger than usual population of students with the flu both in person and on the phone as recommended by the Hillsborough County Health Department and the CDC
  - Informational flyers for those with the flu for self care, especially in the residence halls
  - Discussion of acquiring packs of amenities, as budget allows, to assist resident students in convalescing from the flu
  - Communication with the Hillsborough County Health Department and the Florida Department of Health to make the H1N1 vaccine available to the appropriate populations as it becomes available
- 2. If sick with flu, what medical or other assistance can my son/daughter receive on campus?**  
 Student Health Services is available to see patients Monday through Friday 7:30 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. It is staffed with 10 full time doctors and nurse practitioners. A phone triage system is being developed to handle the expected surge in telephone traffic; a doctor is on call after hours 24 hours a day for phone assistance. Students diagnosed with an influenza-like illness are being advised to return home via non-commercial carrier to convalesce, if at all feasible.
- 3. Will my son/daughter be excused from attending classes, if sick with flu? If so, for how many days?**  
 Sick students should stay at home/residence halls. Typical flu symptoms last 5-10 days, after which students should normally start attending classes and are responsible for the course material missed.
- 4. Will my son/daughter be allowed to make up for lost homework, quizzes, or exams?**  
 Each course at USF has a makeup policy. However, instructors are being advised to develop makeup policies for their classes that will be applicable for special circumstances that might cause a large number of students to be absent from classes.
- 5. What is your plan for academic continuity in the event of a campus closure?**  
 USF faculty and staff are preparing to ensure that, in the event of a prolonged campus closure, delivery of instruction is continued via alternative modes, including on-line delivery. Classes that are not continued during a closure will be rescheduled after campus reopening, as needed.
- 6. What is my son/daughter expected to need in order to continue classes via an 'on-line delivery' mode?**  
 USF expects that all students will have access to a phone and a computer with Internet connectivity during a campus closure.
- 7. Will my son/daughter be expected to attend classes during weekends and evenings, after reopening of the campus, if necessary, to make up for lost instruction that could not be delivered on-line?**

If the university is required to close for an extended period of time, it may be necessary to adjust the academic calendar and reschedule some classes, labs, studios, and other course activities to provide for lost instruction that could not be provided on-line. The University will make every attempt to schedule these makeup sessions to avoid conflicts with the next

academic semester. Yes, it is possible that these makeup sessions will include weekend and evening meeting times.

**8. What happens with financial aid for my son/daughter if they are out sick and need to take a medical withdrawal?**

For policy on financial aid refund upon withdrawal from classes, see

<http://usfweb2.usf.edu/finaid/REFUND.html>

**9. My son/daughter is scheduled to graduate at the end of the semester. What happens to his/her plans if the university is required to close?**

USF intends to maintain academic continuity during a campus closure and thus minimize any impact on graduation plans of the students.

**10. How will the decision to have a campus closure be made? Who will make this decision? How much advance notice of the closure will be provided?**

A decision to close the USF campus would be made by the USF administration with guidance from the federal, state, and local health authorities. Health and wellness of students, faculty, and staff and students' academic success would be the key considerations in making such a decision.

**11. If there is a campus closure, will my son/daughter be allowed to remain in their university residence halls? Will food service be continued during a period of closure?**

In the event of a campus closure, students would be encouraged to return to their home via non-commercial carrier. However, for students unable to do so, the residence halls would continue to be open and staffed, although some services would be limited. Meals would continue to be provided to students who have a meal plan with Dining Services.