

Morris College Urgent Notification

Important Health Information About H1N1

In June 2009, the World Health Organization declared that the H1N1 flu (swine flu) virus had spread to enough countries to be considered a global pandemic. Calling H1N1 a pandemic does not mean that the disease is deadlier or more severe than before, just that it has spread to more countries.

The new virus spreads just like regular flu. People can pick up germs directly from an infected person or by touching an object a sick person recently touched and then touching their eyes, mouth or nose. DHEC recommends that people get into the habit of washing their hands frequently, even if no one is ill. Infected people can start spreading flu germs up to a day before symptoms start, and continue to spread them for up to seven days after getting sick, according to the CDC.

The overwhelming majority of H1N1 patients experience mild symptoms and make a rapid and full recovery. Most people who have tested positive for H1N1 in South Carolina have reported mild symptoms that are similar to those of seasonal flu. It is uncertain whether the H1N1 virus will remain mild, or whether it will become more severe as it spreads during the fall months.

Students Who Become Ill While Living On Campus:

- Any student exhibiting flu-like symptoms should go immediately to the Health Center or to their own personal physician to get tested and examined. If they are diagnosed with the H1N1 flu virus, the student should go to his/her permanent home until becoming well, if he/she lives close enough to do so. The student should contact the Hall Director and/or Health Services to make them aware of their departure.
- If the student cannot go home, he/she should isolate themselves in their room and remain away from other people until at least 24 hours after he/she no longer has a fever over 100 degrees or any sign of a fever (chills, cough or sore throat, feel warm, flushed appearance, sweating).
- The student diagnosed with or suspected of having influenza who cannot go home should limit contact with others and try to maintain a distance of at least six feet from people if they are coughing. If close contact cannot be avoided, the student should wear a surgical mask while in common areas like bathrooms, the common areas of a residence hall, or when in a room with an unaffected individual. Students may obtain masks for use from their respective Hall Director or the Health Center.
- Students diagnosed with or suspected of having influenza should not attend class or visit the dining hall. The Hall Director will complete a Sick Tray form and go to the dining hall to get a meal to bring to the student.

- Students who are well but have a family member or roommate with H1N1 flu can attend classes or visit the dining hall as usual. Students should monitor their health every day. If they become ill, they should go home to recover.

Students Who Become Ill Who Live Off Campus:

- Students diagnosed with or suspected of having influenza who live off campus must delay their arrival to campus until at least 24 hours after the fever resolves without the use of fever reducing medications (e.g., Tylenol or ibuprofen).

Employees Who Become Ill:

- Employees diagnosed with or suspected of having influenza must not report to work until at least 24 hours after the fever resolves without the use of fever reducing medications (e.g., Tylenol or ibuprofen).

If Quarantine Is Necessary:

- For any student(s) with influenza where it has been determined that quarantine is necessary in the best interest of that student and the hall community, the college has identified facilities on campus that will serve as temporary infirmary accommodations for these purposes. These incidents will be identified on a case-by-case basis.