



Santa Fe, NM, April 29, 2009 – The Department of Health and Human Services has issued a nationwide public health emergency declaration in response to recent human infections with a newly discovered swine influenza A (swine flu) virus.

While there are no reported cases of swine flu in New Mexico, Santa Fe Community College is taking a series of precautions and preventative steps to make the campus as safe as possible. As a public institution, SFCC has a responsibility to prepare for a crisis and is planning and preparing accordingly. In the event of pandemic influenza, Santa Fe Community College will play a key role in protecting the health and safety of its employees, students and visitors. The college also plays a role in limiting the negative impact on the local economy and surrounding community.

The CDC has determined that this swine influenza A (H1N1) virus is contagious and is spreading from human to human. However, it is still to be determined how easily the virus spreads between people. There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like influenza. These health-protecting steps come from the Center for Disease Control, at www.cdc.gov:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick with influenza, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

Santa Fe Community College is closely following information and updates from state and federal health organizations, including Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, New Mexico Department of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the World Health Organization. The New Mexico Department of Health is keeping in touch with hospitals and healthcare providers in order to detect potential cases as quickly as possible.

When there are important notices or a major change in SFCC's emergency preparedness response, the college will notify the campus. Sign up to receive emergency text message and email alerts by clicking and registering [here](#).

Here are some key resources for information:

New Mexico Department of Health: [Swine Influenza Resources](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Preventing the Flu](#), [Updates](#), [Key Facts](#), [Swine Flu and You](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: [Swine Flu Investigation](#)

World Health Organization: [Latest News](#)

PandemicFlu.gov: [News](#), [Individuals and Family Planning](#), [Swine Flu Questions](#)

You can also call the NM Department of Health Swine Flu Hotline at (866) 850-5893.