



# SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Dear Students and Parents,

October, 2009

As you know, the outbreak of H1N1 (swine) flu is causing school systems across the country to adopt measures to prevent the flu from spreading among their students and staff members. We want to inform you of the steps the University is taking to try to limit the spread of the illness.

1. The University expects to receive sufficient seasonal flu vaccine for all of its students. We strongly urge all of our students who have field placements to obtain the seasonal flu vaccine. The H1N1 or Swine flu vaccine will likely be available later in the semester. Students will be notified by email and through the University flu website at <http://sunews.syr.edu/h1n1flu/index.html>.
2. Any student with a field placement who develops flu-like symptoms will be expected to seek immediate medical attention, and to remain absent from the placement until fever has been gone for 24 hours. (Any student in this situation must, of course, immediately notify his or her supervising teacher and University supervisor or seminar instructor, if he or she is going to be absent.)
3. In the unlikely event that an area school is closed due to an outbreak of flu among its students and/or staff members, the field placements of any University students in that school will be suspended for the period of that school's closure.
4. If a placement in an area school is interrupted, either (1) because of his or her own medical condition, or (2) because the school itself has been closed because of the flu, the student will be required to make up the time lost due to the interruption. Students should contact their supervising teachers and University supervisors to make up for any interruptions of three days or less. The University (through its supervisors and field placement coordinator) will offer suggestions and assistance on how students can make up the missed time.
5. The University will assume direct responsibility for making arrangements for making up for any interruption of more than three teaching days. These arrangements might include: arranging for placements in other schools, extending fall placements into December, and extending Spring placements into May. We recognize that any of these alternatives could involve significant inconvenience for our students and, in some cases, their families, as well as our own staff members. We will do everything possible to avoid having to make them. But everyone should understand that New York State certification regulations require that students meet certain minimum time commitments for their field placements, and that the length of our programs' placements have been set to meet these requirements. These requirements cannot be waived due to any of the medical situations discussed above.

With each other's cooperation and support, we hope that we will be able to protect the health of our students and the public school students they serve, and that none of our students will face a situation that requires extraordinary measures to complete a field placement. We welcome any questions or suggestions you might want to raise, either now or later, regarding these concerns. Please call SU Health Services at 443-9005 if you have health related concerns. Other sources of information include the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1FLU/> and the SU flu website at <http://sunews.syr.edu/h1n1flu/index.html>.

Doug Biklen, Dean

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