



Preparing for Flu Season - A Letter to Snow Parents

Dear Snow Parents,

Thank you for sending your students to Snow College. We are doing all we can to help them have an excellent educational experience. According to the Center for Disease Control and state and local health officials, preparing for this year's flu season includes understanding the increased risk of contracting the H1N1 flu. Snow College is taking steps before the flu season is upon us to prevent the spread of the flu virus on our campuses. Our success largely depends on the individual efforts of your students to stay healthy and well so we are asking for your help in encouraging them to be informed and responsibly practice good health habits this school year.

We will be closely monitoring flu conditions on campus during the flu season and make decisions that we believe are needed to keep students as healthy as circumstances allow. We will keep our campuses updated with pertinent information via the Snow website. In the meantime, we ask for your support as we work to keep the spread of illness from interrupting your son or daughter's school experience.

We have corresponded with all students via email and our student newspaper, the Snowdrift, and have advised them of basic actions they ought to take to stay healthy and help stop the spread of the flu virus. The letter to students can be found online by following on the [H1N1 Flu Prevention link](#) found on our [homepage](#). If your student has not yet seen this letter, please encourage him/her to click on the homepage link and view it. We ask that you use the information contained in the letter to help you, your family and your student stay healthy this winter.

If this year's flu season becomes more severe, we may take the following additional steps to prevent the spread of the virus:

- **Allow students, faculty and staff at higher risk for complications to stay home.** These students, faculty and staff should make this decision in consultation with their health care provider.
- **Find ways to increase social distances** (the space between people) in classrooms such as moving desks further apart, leaving empty seats between students, holding outdoor classes, minimizing or eliminating large social gatherings and using distance learning methods. We will also be strongly encouraging self-isolation for those who exhibit symptoms.
- **Extend the time sick students, faculty or staff stay home or in their residence.** Health officials indicate that during severe flu conditions sick people should stay home for at least 7 days, even if they feel better sooner. Those who are still sick after 7 days should continue to stay home until at least 24 hours after symptoms have gone away.
- **Suspend classes.** This decision will be made together with local and state public health officials. The length of time classes should be suspended will depend on the goal of suspending classes as well as the severity and extent of illness. This is an unlikely scenario and one we would only consider if advised by state public health officials.

We will keep you and your students apprised of any such decisions as the need arises. If you have general questions about the steps Snow College is taking, please refer to our H1N1 website as noted above or call the Office of Student Success at 435-893-2247.

Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.