

UVU Pandemic Plan Report

Updated October 19, 2009

H1N1: The most recent pandemic

“2009 H1N1 (referred to as “swine flu” early on) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009. This virus is spreading from person-to-person worldwide, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread. On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) signaled that a pandemic of 2009 H1N1 flu was underway.”

Source: Center for Disease Control (CDC)

Background:

With the continued spread of the H1N1 virus in June of 2009 and the upgrade of H1N1 to a pandemic level by the World Health Organization (WHO), the UVU EPAC team undertook efforts to make a university wide pandemic plan. Specifically, the UVU Pandemic Plan addresses the potential of school closure during a severe pandemic where many students, staff, and faculty are infected. Distinction should be drawn between a pandemic plan and an H1N1 reaction or response plan. H1N1 is a current pandemic; there have been many specific reactions set in place by the EPAC, Student Health Services, and the University as a reaction to this specific event. The UVU pandemic plan, by necessity is not specific to H1N1. The UVU Pandemic Plan is a broader look at the problem of mass infection within the campus environment. As such, this plan must be general enough to have application to a variety of potential pandemic events.

Purpose and Overview:

For productive planning to occur certain assumptions about the nature of a pandemic flu crisis needed to be set. These assumptions allowed some critical decisions to be made in advance of a pandemic. In the event of a school closure all systems of the University would be immediately affected. Priority areas were selected and planning focused on each area’s preparation should an event arise. The UVU pandemic plan was created to ensure continuity of operations through all priority areas during a pandemic event. The plan outlines levels of action and response levels from a neutral state of non-alert to a state of severe risk.

The UVU Pandemic Plan is intended to plan for the most severe scenario, anticipating that EPAC and University authorities could more readily scale back our planning for a less severe situation than compensate for an underestimation of the impact of a pandemic event.

UVU Priority Areas

UVU considered situations and areas in which lack of advance planning would jeopardize the safety of people more than necessary, compromise the main missions of the University, or place the institution’s physical facilities at risk.

Under direction of the President's Council the EPAC committee contacted each Vice President with administrative charge over the outlined priority areas. Each Vice President was assigned responsibility for overseeing the creation of specific pandemic responses and school closure contingencies. Resumption of operations was also a consideration.

The priority areas identified were:

- Academic Affairs—graduate and undergraduate
- Administration and Legislative Affairs
 - Bookstore
 - Business Resource Center and Small Business Administration
 - Business Services and Accounting
 - Dining Services
 - Physical Plant Facilities
 - Human Resources and Benefits
 - Information Technology
 - Internal Auditing
 - Central Administration
 - McKay Events Center
 - Cancellation of large events
- Institutional Advancement
 - Communications Plan
- Student Affairs
 - Student Life
 - Dean of Students
 - Student issues, including international students
 - UVU's limited housing programs
 - Student Health Services
 - Health care personnel/facilities
 - Enrollment Management
 - Athletics
 - Cancellation of large events
 - Travel issues
 - Student Advancement and Supportive Services
 - Center for the Advancement of Leadership
- Public Safety and Campus Security

Incident Management:

The management of this incident is under the direction of the President and his council. EPAC will play an advisory role to the President's Council.

UNIVERSITY LEVELS OF ACTION, PLANNING AND INCIDENT RESPONSE LEVEL CRITERIA

Preparation

Level 0: Identification of influenza or other newly emergent virus but no human-to-human transmission worldwide.

Emergency plan response level: Pre-event assessment and planning.

Emergency plan incident response level criteria: No current hazard to persons.

Level 1: First confirmed case of human-to-human transmission of the virus worldwide.

Emergency plan response level:

- University planning and preparation through EPAC.
- Statement of awareness sent to students and faculty through Student Health Services.
- Information gathering regarding specific influenza event.

Emergency plan incident response level criteria:

- Minimal immediate hazard to students, faculty, and staff.
- The emergency can be resolved with minimal outside agency assistance.

Level 2: First confirmed case of human-to-human transmission of the virus in the U.S., Canada or Mexico.

Emergency plan response level:

- University preparing through EPAC.
- EPAC briefs President's Council.
- Criteria for suspending classes reviewed (pre-implementation).
- Review calendar and earmark large events that may be affected if threat level increases.
- Statement of precautions sent to students, parents and faculty through Student Health Services.

Emergency plan incident response level criteria:

- Possibly endangers students, faculty, and staff and requires coordination with outside agencies.
- Travel restriction to infected areas.

Action

Level 3: First confirmed case of human-to-human transmission of the virus in Utah.

Emergency plan response level:

- University makes plan for **possibly** suspending classes for 4-8 weeks.
 - Table top discussion in EPAC
 - Brief the President's Council
- Communication plan checked and readied.
- Major public events rescheduled.
- Use Student Health Services' information and precautions website to inform campus of outbreak and CDC recommendations.

Emergency plan incident response level criteria:

- Greater risk to students, faculty, and staff
- Requires substantial coordination with outside agencies.
 - WHO, CDC, Utah Health, USHE

Level 4: First confirmed case of human-to-human transmission of the virus in Utah Valley and Orem area.

Emergency plan response level:

- Suspension of classes discussed in relation to the virulence of the influenza and the potential for harm and death.
 - It is assumed that suspension of classes will be recommended from the State level or UVU will follow other closures within the state and region.
- Sustained activity essential staff.
- Non-essential staff remain off campus
- Communication plan initiated
 - Use text-messaging system
 - Email
 - Media
 - Web
 - School Social networking sights
- Return-to-campus date set and distributed to students, faculty and staff.
 - Through communication plan

Emergency plan incident response level criteria:

- Likely risk to students, faculty, and staff.
- Requires substantial coordination with outside agencies.