



# University of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, PA 15260

October 16, 2009

Dear Parent,

University of Pittsburgh administrators and medical professionals continue to communicate with our students about H1N1 influenza (swine flu) in numerous ways: on the Web, through posters, door hanger signs, interviews in campus publications, letters, Chancellor's updates, and a 24-hour flu hotline. But we also feel it is important that we continue to communicate with parents, to both reassure you about the extensive measures being taken to keep your student healthy, and also to enlist your support in the information campaign that must continue throughout the coming months.

At the start of the fall semester, Pitt implemented its plan to control the spread of the H1N1 virus. Details of that plan can be found on the H1N1 page, accessed from the home page of Pitt.edu. We are happy to report that our plan has been effective and that the rate of influenza-like illness on our campus has not increased over the past four weeks. Further, almost every case of influenza-like illness on campus has been mild and brief, with most people recovering from its symptoms in two to five days.

But with winter approaching, there must be no let up in precautionary measures or reaction to flu-like illness.

The University has registered to be a H1N1 flu vaccine provider—of both nasal spray and injectable vaccines—for those in the Pitt community. We received an initial supply of nasal spray vaccines earlier this week, which will be distributed to students free of charge. We anticipate that Pitt will receive an additional supply of the nasal spray H1N1 vaccine and an ample supply of the injectable form of the H1N1 vaccine in the coming weeks.

Students who wish to receive the H1N1 vaccine must register at [my.pitt.edu](http://my.pitt.edu) or [www.pitt.edu/swine-flu](http://www.pitt.edu/swine-flu). The doses will be given, in accordance with guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to those students who have registered. Students must provide a printed copy of their registration and their Pitt ID to receive the H1N1 vaccine.

The nasal spray vaccine is only intended for healthy, nonpregnant persons between the ages of 2 and 49. According to the CDC, those with underlying chronic health conditions or

who are pregnant should not get the nasal spray but should wait for the availability of the injectable vaccine.

Pitt will communicate additional information regarding H1N1 as it becomes available.

In the meantime, please encourage your student to be diligent about hygiene (wash his or her hands often, cover coughs, and stay at home if sick) and to contact Pitt's flu hotline (412-624-2222) if they have flu-like symptoms or if they have an underlying chronic illness and have been in contact with someone with flu-like symptoms. Through the hotline, our medical experts can advise on the best of course of action.

In addition, the University will continue to deliver meals to our sick students, provide flu kits containing a mask and thermometer, check in with ill students on a daily basis, and provide hand-sanitizer stations in high-traffic areas.

The University of Pittsburgh is committed to do whatever is possible to create both an intellectually stimulating and a physically healthy environment in which our students may thrive and grow.

(For more information: [www.pitt.edu/swine-flu](http://www.pitt.edu/swine-flu); parents hotline —412-648-1100).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Humphrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping underline.

Kathy Humphrey

Vice Provost and Dean of Students