

# **WNC Policies and Procedures Manual**

Procedure: **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PLAN** (Re: 9/3/2009)

Policy No.: 11-2-2

Department: Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S)

Contact: Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator

Policy: This plan addresses communicable disease outbreaks and defines the steps that WNC will take in preparation for, and how the college will respond to a health related emergency, epidemic or pandemic. This document is consistent with other WNC emergency planning documents.

This plan cites several different communicable diseases and is intended for use in all communicable disease emergencies. The severity of communicable diseases can vary greatly. Much of this plan is based on influenza that may be greater in severity than the H1N1 virus.

The intent of this plan is to protect lives and effectively use available resources to maintain an appropriate level of college operations during instances of communicable disease emergencies.

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**Definitions:**

Antiviral Drugs: A class of medication used specifically for treating viral infections. Like antibiotics, specific antiviral are used for specific viruses. Antiviral drugs are one class of antimicrobials, a larger group that also includes antibiotics, anti-fungal and anti-parasitic drugs. They are relatively harmless to the host, and therefore are used to treat infections. They should be distinguished from vermicides, which actively deactivate virus particles outside the body.

Influenza: Commonly known as the **flu** or the **grippe** is a contagious disease of the upper airways and the lungs caused by an RNA virus of the orthomyxoviridae family. It rapidly spreads in seasonal epidemics killing millions of people in pandemic years and hundreds of thousands in nonpandemic years. It creates health care costs and lost productivity. Three influenza pandemics in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, each following a major genetic change in the virus, killed millions of people

Two key links to documents pertaining to the N1H1 virus (swine flu) follow:  
CDC guidance for response to influenza for Institutions of Higher Education during the 2009-2010 academic year. See this web link <http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/school/higheredguidance.html>

Communications tools for institutions of Higher Education is  
<http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/school/higheredtoolkit.html>

## **Section 2      References**

### **A. Nevada State Health Division**

The Nevada State Health Division website is at <http://health.nv.gov/> it is an excellent website.

The H1N1 seasonal tool kit is on their website as well as their bilingual flu hotline.

### **B. Relevant Nevada Revised Statutes:**

NRS 414-Emergency Management

NRS 439-Administration of Public Health

NRS 439.170-Prevention of sickness and disease; legal action for enforcement of laws and regulation

NRS 441A.150- Reporting occurrences of communicable diseases to the health authority

NRS 441A.190-Control of disease within schools, child care facilities, medical facilities and correctional facilities and

NRS 441A.500-720



and the colleges' emergency policy group. They will also forward current information on our operational status to the following radio and television stations:

KKOH 780AM all news station  
KDOT Rock 104 FM  
KOZZ 105 FM  
KUNR 88.7 FM  
KBUL 98 FM  
KWNZ 97 FM  
KRNO 106.9 FM  
ALICE 96.5 FM  
KRZQ 100.9 FM  
KTHX 100.1 FM

KBZZ 1230 AM  
KPTT 630 AM  
**Television Stations:**  
KAME Channel 21  
KRXI Channel 11

## Section 4

Our child Development Center is a high priority for H1N1 and other viruses.

#### C. Continuity of Operations Plans

This document includes a template to assist development of preparedness steps for their divisions, departments, campuses, and units. This template is in Appendix “B” and is entitled “WNC’s Template for Division, Department, Campus, and Unit Communicable Disease Continuity of Operation Plan.” The template describes many scenarios related to pandemic situations to help groups’ better grasp the types of situations they could encounter during a communicable disease emergency.

#### D. Infection Control

3. Dismissal of students from schools (including public and private schools as well as colleges and universities) and school-based activities and closure of childcare programs,



pandemic sever

Pandemic Severity Index





disease transmission. Therefore, household members of homes with sick individuals would be advised to stay home.

\*\*To facilitate compliance and decrease risk of household transmission, this intervention may be combined with provision of antiviral medications to household contacts, depending on drug







**Appendix “A”**  
**University Nevada Reno Pandemic Influenza Plan Introduction**

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has warned that the current risk form avian influenza (“bird flu”) becoming the next human influenza pandemic is high.

In acknowledging that there is ambiguity about whether the H5N1 “bird flu” virus will mutate into a virus capable of causing a worldwide pandemic, the U.S. Health and Human Services (USHHS) Secretary, Michael Leavitt, said on February





- e) Communication is a critical aspect of all emergency planning and response
- f) There will be universal susceptibility to the pandemic influenza subtype
- g) Experts anticipate an influenza pandemic could last from 18 months to several years with at least two peak waves of activity. In an affected community, a pandemic will last about 6 to 8 weeks. Following the pandemic, the new viral subtype is likely to continue circulating and contribute to seasonal influenza
- h) Vaccinations and antiviral treatment are anticipated to be the most effective medical treatment, but they may be non-existent or in limited supply
- i) Non-medical containment measures will be the principal means of disease control until vaccinations are av



## **Appendix “B”**

### **WNC’s Template for Division, Department, Campus, and Unit**

#### **Communicable Disease Continuity of Operation Plan**

This plan is developed for this division, department, campus, or unit and specifically covers the critical functions and positions, designated personnel and response/recovery actions for division, departments, school, college, or unit as they apply to an influenza pandemic scenario. This document will be combined with similar plans from other divisions, departments, campuses, and units, and compiled into a campus-wide plan for responding to an influenza pandemic.

An electronic version of this template can be obtained from Kathy Lynch ([lynchk@WNC.edu](mailto:lynchk@WNC.edu)). Using an electronic version will allow your department, division, or group to expand each section to include all necessary and appropriate information.

## PLANNING STRUCTURE

1.) The organizational structure for division, department, campus, or unit consist of:

Name	Position	Work Location	Email	Office	Home	Cellular or other	Text Capable?

2.) The Pandemic Planning Workgroup appointed for division, department, or unit is:

Name	Position	Work Location	Email	Office	Home	Cellular or other	Text Capable?

## SCENARIOS AND QUESTIONS

1) **Consider this Scenario** (WHO/CDC Pandemic Alert Phase II):

In spite of heavy surveillance, the avian flu H5N1 virus has been found in poultry in the New



III) **Consider this Scenario** (WHO/CDC Pandemic Alert Phase V):

Cases of H5N1 influenza have been verified in the U.S. some of those cases in California. Some countries have closed their airspace to all inbound flights. There is a public health alert notice from the California Department of Health and the state's Pandemic Flu Plan has been activated, which calls for immediate quarantine of known cases and all their contacts, and possibly stopping



IV) **Consider this Scenario**

V) **Consider this Scenario** (WHO/CDC Pandemic Alert Phase V):

Cases of H5N1 influenza are verified in the U.S., some of those cases in California. Some countries have closed their airspace to all inbound flights. There is a public health alert notice from the California Department of Health and the state's Pandemic Flu Plan has been activated, which calls for immediate quarantine of known cases and all their contacts, and possibly stopping all traffic in and out of the affected area in an attempt to contain the virus. School absenteeism rates (all levels) are extremely high, and there have been "unusually light" commutes the last few days. There is high absenteeism in all offices. Some stores are closed because of high employee absenteeism and the ones that are open are packed with consumers trying to purchase supplies. All business is disrupted, which includes normal deliveries of goods and services. Markets are being shopped out, long lines at open gas stations. Hospitals and health centers are quickly being overwhelmed with both the sick and the "worried well." There is some discussion of activation the National Guard.

**Specifically at WNC:** There have not been any confirmed cases of Avian Flu in Northern Nevada. Students are not attending classes. Some classes are cancelled as there is high absenteeism among faculty and staff. Reasons for absenteeism include personal and family illness, although it is suspected that many faculty and staff are choosing to stay home. Students are afraid of becoming ill. Some faculty and staff are wearing gloves and masks and avoiding their colleagues. The president is considering a closure of the campus if cases occur in Northern Nevada.

**Questions:**

1. What actions within the division, department, campus, or unit are to be implemented to recover from this disaster?
2. What mitigation measure could have been put into place ahead of time that could have helped your division, department, campus, or unit weather this disaster better?

## **Continuity of Operation Plan**

## **Appendix “C”**

### **WNC Campus Pandemic Response Plan**

The WNC Pandemic Response Plan description uses three levels as a system to launch progressively more responsive actions to prevent the spread of disease.











	understand General Precautions; go to: <a href="http://www.mass.gov/dph/dcd/epii/sars/infosheets/infectioncontrol.pdf">http://www.mass.gov/dph/dcd/epii/sars/infosheets/infectioncontrol.pdf</a>		
14. Child Development Center	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Involve the parents in the planning effort on the continuity of operations plan</li> <li>2. Monitor county health recommendations</li> <li>3. Train parents and workers on the spread of infection</li> <li>4. Use the WNC website and phone trees for critical communications</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recommend a temporary shutdown of services</li> <li>2. Dispose of food prior to shutdown</li> </ol>	

15. B BT 41 0 0.

## **Appendix “D” Acknowledgement**

Included is the “University of Nevada Reno Pandemic Flu Plan Introduction” See Appendix “A” to this plan. Their introduction is well written as it relates to communicable disease particularly Avian Flu in northern Nevada. You may wish to read this document before reading this plan.

It should be recognized that, in addition to the University of Nevada Reno, information from several other universities were used as sources in developing WNC’s Communicable Disease Plan.

These universities are:

- Carnegie Mellon University
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Irvine
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

In addition, information is incorporated from the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Nevada State Health Division, and the Carson City Department of Health and Human Services.

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