

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

THE FU FOUNDATION SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE

Dear Columbia Parent:

We look forward to welcoming your student to campus in the fall. As part of our preparation for the start of the academic year, we have paid particular attention to the presence of the H1N1 flu situation locally, nationally, and internationally.

Columbia University has been monitoring the swine Influenza A (H1N1) outbreak closely since the first reports, and continues to follow the guidance of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC-DOHMH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and other appropriate agencies in responding to such public health issues. Based on careful, informed planning, the University has procedures in place to help prevent the spread of H1N1 and other diseases.

Since the emergence of H1N1 in the spring, the Division of Student Affairs, Housing and Dining Services, and Health Services have collaborated on ways to educate students and keep them healthy. One of the most important measures everyone can take to protect themselves and others is to practice preventive hygiene to limit the potential spread of disease. To help with this, educational fliers are posted throughout campus and in the residence halls, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap dispensers are provided in public gathering places such as dining areas, computer labs, and customer service desks.

Hygiene is the foremost protective measure everyone can take, but the best way to protect against seasonal flu is to get a vaccine. As it does each year, Health Services will provide seasonal flu vaccines at no cost to the Columbia community during the fall. Information about how your student can get a free flu shot will be widely distributed around campus in September.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that a separate vaccine for the H1N1 virus is under development and could be available later this fall. As soon as we have information outlining the national distribution guidelines and procedures for the H1N1 vaccine, we will immediately share that information with the entire student body.

If your student becomes sick while at school, our health care experts are prepared to help. Columbia has medical clinicians at Health Services who are available to evaluate ill students and help them seek appropriate care. For those students who demonstrate flu-like symptoms, such as persistent fever combined with muscle aches or fatigue, we strongly encourage them to first call:

**Health Services at Columbia, 212-854-2284**, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

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OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

601 Lerner Hall Mail Code 2607 2920 Broadway New York, NY 10027 212-854-2446 Fax 212-854-0012

Of course, if within commuting distance, it's best if your student recuperates at home. If your student stays on campus, he or she should remain in the residence hall room, and Housing and Dining can help provide services while he or she recovers. In either case, the CDC recommends that any person with influenza-like illness remain in their residence for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever.

Health Services is prepared to provide your student with information about services one might need while ill—for example, meal services, face masks, and other housing and dining services.

Please know your student will also receive an email from us containing detailed advice on how to stay healthy this year. If you wish to update your contact information, you or your student should e-mail us at [fpse@columbia.edu](mailto:fpse@columbia.edu).

To learn more about our efforts, we invite you to visit the Preparedness Web site at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/student-services/preparedness> for frequently asked questions (FAQs), our standard protocol for flu prevention and response, and regular updates.

Columbia views the wellness of your student as one of our greatest priorities.

Sincerely,



Kevin G. Shollenberger  
Dean of Student Affairs and Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Student Life



Samuel Seward, M.D.  
Assistant Vice President, Health Services at Columbia