

Public Health Alert--H1N1 Flu Information

Updated 5:30 P.M. 4/30/09

To all graduating students:

As we prepare for your commencement ceremony tomorrow, we would like to communicate some helpful information concerning the current swine flu outbreak. Although there are no confirmed cases of swine flu connected to Northeastern, we have decided to take some precautions at commencement because it is such a large gathering of people -- many of whom are traveling from different locations to attend.

First, we will have hand sanitizer available at both the morning and afternoon ceremonies. Feel free to use this as needed, particularly before and after you have direct contact with others.

Second, we ask that people respect the recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control regarding spread of the flu: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu>. For example, if you are exhibiting flu-like symptoms we request that you not attend the ceremony. We ask this out of respect for the health of others attending.

Third, since direct contact is one of the ways flu viruses spread, we have decided to forgo the traditional congratulatory handshake as you come forward to receive your diploma and have your photo taken with your dean.

While we are taking what we believe to be appropriate precautions, these steps do not diminish the excitement of this occasion or the tremendous accomplishments you have achieved as students. The university's faculty and staff look forward to celebrating with you tomorrow.