

## Public Health Alert--H1N1 Flu Information

Updated 5:32 P.M. 4/30/09

To all faculty and staff:

We are writing to update you regarding the recent outbreak of H1N1, also known as swine flu. As you may know, public health officials have now confirmed two cases of swine flu in Massachusetts. Although there are no confirmed cases connected to Northeastern, the University is working closely with health experts to monitor all information related to the outbreak and to implement the recommendations for prevention, testing, and treatment.

We urge all members of our community to practice good hygiene, including constant hand washing and sanitizing, and to avoid contact with sick people. The symptoms of swine flu are similar to those of the regular seasonal influenza, which include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, coughing, and other symptoms. Faculty and staff who are experiencing these symptoms should stay home from work and seek care through their primary care physician.

The University has decided to take some prudent precautions at tomorrow's commencement to minimize direct contact between graduates and participants. These include the availability of hand-sanitizer at both the morning and afternoon ceremonies, and forgoing the traditional congratulatory handshake when graduates receive their diplomas. We are also encouraging any participant who may be experiencing flu-like symptoms not to attend the ceremony out of respect for the health of others.

Information related to swine flu and the practice of good hygiene has been posted in the residence halls and may be found here, on the UHCS homepage. The University has contacted those students who are likely travelers during the semester break advising of swine flu risks and precautions that can be taken.

We recommend consulting Centers for Disease Control web site regarding spread of the flu:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu>

For updates on the University's response to this outbreak, please monitor this webpage.