



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
P.O. Box 10146 • Albuquerque, NM 87184
9169 Coors Blvd., NW • Albuquerque, NM 87120

MAY 06 2009

Dear Students:

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is carefully monitoring the spread of the H1N1 swine flu. Being concerned with the wellbeing of our campus community this memo informs you about the steps that we are taking to prepare. The safety and security of our community members, including students, staff and faculty is our number one priority.

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) is taking a proactive approach. We are developing a plan in case one of our community members has the symptoms of the H1N1 flu and/or we have a confirmed case. Once developed and approved, the plan will be shared with all community members. I must re-emphasize that the safety and security of our members is of our utmost importance.

Flu spreads easily. Enclosed is a brochure that provides important information including the symptoms of the H1N1 and preventive strategies, such as proper and frequent hand washing. We must all take personal responsibility to reduce the risk of getting the flu and to protect ourselves and others from the infection. ***Please read the attached brochure.***

To limit the spread of the flu, it is very important to practice good hygiene.

- Before you use a public telephone or computer that is available to others, clean it with a sanitizer wipe or suggested cleaning solution.
- Use the hand sanitizer solution and wipes that will be placed throughout campus. Each computer lab will be outfitted with hand sanitizers and sanitizing wipes. *Due to the increased demand for sanitizers, we are finding it difficult to secure these items immediately. They will be placed throughout campus as soon as we receive them.*
- Remember.... **frequent and thorough hand washing** is the first defense against spreading or contracting H1N1. *Please secure your own hand sanitizer solution.*

If you are feeling ill, seek medical attention immediately. If you suspect you are getting the flu it is important that you do not attend classes and avoid group events, the cafeteria, the library or where other people would be exposed to the flu.

If you have the symptoms of the H1N1 flu, it is very important that you let us know immediately. You can contact any SIPI staff/faculty member or contact **Cecelia Cometsevah (505) 452-6307** or by e-mail at ccometse@sipi.bia.ed. Once contacted Ms. Cometsevah will speak with you directly, and immediately confer with a health professional regarding possible treatment. Based upon the recommendation, you may be directed to seek medical attention immediately. To ensure the wellbeing of others, you will be immediately removed from public contact to an isolation room. Transportation to UNM-Hospital will be provided by SIPI staff or, if needed, by the emergency medical services. If an individual refuses treatment and/or isolation, they will be removed from campus. In order to comply with reporting requirements, all referrals for medical attention will be tracked and you will be asked for personal contact information.

To minimize the spread of germs, the following temporary changes will be made at the SIPI cafeteria:

- Elimination of the salad bar; however, pre-made salads will be available, please refrain from asking for a special order.
- All individuals will be required to clean their hands (hand sanitizers or soap and water) prior to going through the food line.

At this time, school will resume as planned. **IF** we have a **CONFIRMED** case of the H1N1 flu on campus, school closure is a possibility. You will be informed immediately. With the possibility of a school closure, I am advising you to plan ahead. Of course, commuter students will remain home. However, residential students must be thinking of transportation, food and lodging needs. In the advent of a school closure, campus will be evacuated and you must have a contingency plan to leave the campus, taking into consideration alternate housing and transportation home. You should develop and discuss your contingency plan with your family. We are hoping for the best, that things will be business as usual at SIPI, but all residential students will need to plan ahead, in the event that the campus must be closed. Be assured that all students will be assisted to the fullest extent.

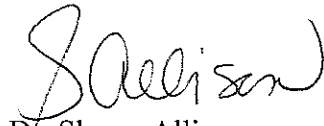
You can get additional information about H1N1 (swine flu) at:

- www.cdc.gov/swineflu
- http://nmhealth.org/FLU/seasonal/swine_flu.html
- The Swine Flu hotline at 1-866-850-5893.

An additional resource is the New Mexico Nurse Advice Line for those needing medical evaluation or do not have a health care provider or insurance...1-877-725-2552.

Thank you for your cooperation and support. We need your help to keep our SIPI community and members healthy. Please contact any SIPI staff or faculty members with questions or advise. My best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S Allison".

Dr. Sherry Allison
Acting President, SIPI

Enclosure

cc: BIE, Deputy Director–Policy, Evaluation and Post Secondary Education
SIPI, Vice President Academics
SIPI, Vice President College Operations (Acting)
SIPI, President, Student Senate
SIPI, Chairman, Board of Regents
SIPI, Director Housing & Recreation
SIPI, All Staff and Faculty
SIPI, Staff, Board of Regents