

Important Notes for Students Taking International Education Activities (as at 5 May 2009)

Background

A number of confirmed human cases of swine influenza A/H1N1 (swine flu) infection have been reported in Austria, Canada, Columbia, Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, and USA. The Director-General has raised the level of influenza pandemic alert from the current phase 4 to phase 5 on April 29 (European time). (as at 5 May).

Currently, 32 HKIED students are overseas and involved in language immersion or student exchange programmes. Some HKIED students will go abroad soon to start their language immersion, ECE immersion, or study abroad programmes, to participate in international study visits or student exchange programmes. These notes are developed to highlight important issues that these students and programme coordinators / HKIED staff members concerned need to be aware of in regard to the recent outbreak of swine influenza.

Students Currently Overseas

If students develop flu symptoms while they are overseas, they should

1. Notify the Overseas Host University immediately and solicit assistance
2. On their advice, seek medical consultation from public clinics or hospitals right away. It is important for students not to self-medicate.
3. Follow the instructions as advised by the doctor.
4. Stay away from the host university or school.
5. Inform the International Office of HKIED of developments.

In general, students should:

6. Pay attention to announcements from the local government.
7. Follow local (overseas) public health guidelines, including any movement restrictions and prevention recommendations.
8. Wear a mask while in public places.
9. Do not have contact with sick people.
10. Keep in regular contact with the International Office of HKIED and be aware of any emails/announcements from the IO.

Students Who Are Going Abroad in the Near Future

1. Students should pay attention to announcements from the HKSAR Government and the International Office of HKIED.
2. Students should attend all briefing sessions/pre-departure meetings organized by the HKIED.
3. Students are advised to have comprehensive health, accident and hospitalization insurance during their participation in the programme. The policy should include coverage for expenses relating to sickness, injury, medical evacuation, accidental death and repatriation.
4. Students should pay close attention to their health condition. Students who have flu like symptoms should not go abroad and should inform the programme /study visit coordinator and the IO of HKIED immediately.
5. Students should ensure that they are well aware of the emergency contacts at the overseas host university.
6. The HKIED will provide updates of the swine flu on the HKIED website (<https://intranet.ied.edu.hk/CommunicableDisease/>) and any other important

- information via IO to the students before they leave Hong Kong.
7. IO staff are available to answer questions and to provide assistance. Please call (852) 2948 7654 to talk to a staff member.
 8. Don't panic, swine influenza we are advised is treatable. However the above precautions need to be treated seriously and as such all students are advised to follow them as closely as possible.