

## **Important Notes for Students Taking International Education Activities (as at 18 June 2009)**

### **Background**

According to WHO, 76 countries have officially reported 35, 928 cases of influenza A/H1N1 (as of 15 June 2009). The WHO Director-General has raised the level of influenza pandemic alert from the current phase 5 to phase 6 on 11 June.

Some HKIED students will go abroad soon to start their language 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 Who Are Going Abroad in the Near Future**

1. Students should pay attention to announcements from the HKSAR Government and the International Office (IO) 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.

### **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.
6. Not board the plane \*

\*If students develop fever on the plane, they should inform the aircrew immediately and the Hong Kong Port Health officials would take care of them at the gate upon arrival in Hong Kong.

In general, students should:

1. Pay attention to announcements from the local (overseas) government.
2. Follow local (overseas) public health guidelines, including any movement restrictions and prevention recommendations.
3. Put on a mask when visiting crowded and poorly ventilated settings.
4. Do not have contact with sick people.
5. Keep in regular contact with the International Office of HKIED and be aware of any emails/announcements from the IO.

### **Students Who Returned to Hong Kong from Overseas**

1. Students should pay close attention to their health condition. Students should visit one of the Designated Flu Clinics if they become sick with a fever plus cough, sore throat or have difficulty breathing during a 7-day period. When students make the appointment, tell the doctor
  - your symptoms
  - where you travelled
  - if you have had close contact with a sick person or farm animals.

Information on Designated Flu Clinics:

[http://www.ha.org.hk/visitor/ha\\_visitor\\_index.asp?Parent\\_ID=311&Content\\_ID=138537&Dimension=100&Lang=ENG](http://www.ha.org.hk/visitor/ha_visitor_index.asp?Parent_ID=311&Content_ID=138537&Dimension=100&Lang=ENG)

2. Students should inform the International Office of HKIED of developments.