Pandemic Plan
Pandemic Planning

This plan is based on the following avian flu phases, which will be determined by the World Health Organization.

- **Pre-Level I**: Prior to efficient human-to-human transmission
- **Level I**: First case of efficient human-to-human internationally—campus open, business as usual, enhanced planning.
- **Level II**: First verified case in North America AND one or more triggering events (listed in text). Implement social distancing measures; cancel classes and other scheduled activities; prepare for closing; begin liberal leave for non-essential employees, healthy essential employees report.
- **Level III**: Within 1-5 days of declaring Level 2 and depending on national and local conditions – All University residences will close; thereafter as soon as practicable most administrative offices and academic buildings will close.
- **Level IV**: As soon as practicable following Level 3 – Campus Closed; declared emergency condition; evacuation of campus; all facilities closed except skeletal services for infirmary, temporary emergency shelter housing for students with extreme hardships, and essential research; access to campus sealed off; closure sustained.
- **Recovery Level**: Recovery stage once pandemic is under control – Campus poised to re-open.
Department Plans

Human Resource

Pre Level I - Prior to efficient human-to-human transmission:
- Assist Public Information as needed to develop a rapid communication system for all essential University employees with pandemic influenza response assignments.
- Issue memo to employees encouraging direct deposit (see memo).
- Develop a plan for providing essential services including implementing special leave, payroll processing and processing death claims.
- Work with Director of Student Health Center to provide general training to all employees. Post training in PeopleSoft training module
- Work with Physical Plant to provide training for infection control to Custodial Staff.
- Work with Vice Presidents on employee designations as essential and post to PeopleSoft.
- Department will pursue opportunity for Cross Training.

Level I - First case of efficient human-to-human internationally:
- Identify and develop a list of current essential personnel and a pool of possible replacements.
- Identify employees available for telephone support work
- Communicate working expectations and leave policies to campus community.
- Identify any faculty, staff or students who are traveling abroad at the time of the WHO declaration

Level II- Prepare to cancel classes and other scheduled activities; prepare for closing:
- Assist with finding staffing for essential functions. Essential employees will be provided vaccination by the University as soon as it is available.
- Implement telecommuting program.
- Distribute laptop computers and equipment needed to run payroll from home as needed.
- Begin allowing liberal voluntary leave for nonessential employees. Only healthy employees should report to work.
- Implement social distancing for employees. Limit face-to-face meetings, stagger shifts.

Level III: All University residences will close; thereafter as soon as practicable most administrative offices and academic buildings will close.
- Activate emergency voice mail message and transfer calls to cell phones and home phones where appropriate and possible.
• Work with payroll office and programmer to process payroll from home
• Assist employees with processing death claims as needed.
• Assist employees with Corporate Travel Card issues if any are stranded in other countries.
• Assist employees with filing working compensation and group health claims as needed
• Essential vaccine distributed for employees if available and following protocol.

Level IV: Campus closed except for skeletal services.

Recovery Level: Campus poised to reopen.
• Implement return to work policy. (Will employees who were ill need a doctor’s release?)

Controller’s Office

Level II: Prepare to cancel classes and other scheduled activities; prepare for closing:
• Additional persons serving as backup operators for cutting checks with be given ACH access in Payroll and Accounts Payable

Level III:
• TimeCentre Administrator becomes campus wide timekeeper for essential employees
• Implement program to mass load special leave in lieu of using TimeCentre
• Work with Human Resource Office and Programmer to process payroll from home
• Send direct deposit file to bank
• Hold file for paper checks until campus reopens

Athletics

Pre Level I:
• Inform staff and student athletics of pandemic planning and university resources.
• Review team travel schedules and whereabouts.
• Speak with the Southland Conference office.
• Plan and train staff.

Level I- First case of efficient human-to-human internationally:
• Communicate with all student-athletes and staff concerning the situation.
• Speak with coaches and teams on the road.
• Contact the Southland Conference office.
• Work with Housing and Dining services to address needs.
• Identify essential and non-essential staff that should report to work.

**Level II: Prepare to cancel classes and other scheduled activities; prepare for closing:**
• Communicate with the Southland Conference and North Oaks Health Systems concerning social distancing related to game cancellations and large events.
• Communicate with coaches and teams on the road. Discuss to stay or return. The best option may be to stay where they are if that campus is “safe”.
• Discuss ways to assist student-athletes to get home from their location at an away contest.
• Communicate with parents of student-athletes.

**Level III: All University residences will close; thereafter as soon as practicable most administrative offices and academic buildings will close.**
• Games cancelled and public notified.

**Level IV: Campus closed except for skeletal services.**
• Same steps as Level 3

**Recovery Level: Campus poised to reopen.**
• Follow same steps to inform student-athletes and staff that it is safe to come back to campus as the regular campus students and employees.

**University Counseling Center**

**Pre-Level I- Prior to efficient human-to-human transmission:**
• Provide preparedness training for all professional counseling staff to identify and alleviate panic reactions, irrational behavior, anxiety, clinical depression, denial and post traumatic stress.
• Begin preparation of psychological self-care information
• Indicate on website, paperwork, and policy manual that in the event of campus closing due to an emergency, essential counseling will be provided via telephone and internet.
• Counselors will be fitted for and trained regarding respirators in collaboration with Health Center

**Level I- First case of efficient human-to-human internationally:**
• Create “psychological first aid” webpage so that it can be quickly implemented at Level 2
• Distribute psychological self-care information
• Prepare paperwork to document telephone calls, internet counseling, and on-site counseling responses in Level 2

**Level II: Prepare to cancel classes and other scheduled activities; prepare for closing:** All UCC counselors will be considered essential personnel.
• Suspend day to day operations
• Post “psychological first aid” information on website
• Implement on-call crisis management (24/7): Counseling via phone/internet for students, faculty, and staff who are off-campus
• Assess need and provide short-term stress counseling for on-campus community
• Attend to first responders
• In case of incapacitation of all UCC counselors, the Department of Counseling and Human Development will provide back-up counseling services. Dr. Mary Ballard is the contact.
• Maintain contact with other essential personnel on campus

**Level III: All University residences will close; thereafter as soon as practicable most administrative offices and academic buildings will close.**
• Continue to assess and provide crisis response intervention strategies as listed in Level 2 plans
• Maintain contact with other essential personnel on campus

**Level IV: Campus closed except for skeletal services.**
• Continue to assess and provide crisis response intervention strategies as listed in Level 2 plans
• Maintain contact with other essential personnel on campus

**Questions/issues:**
• Counselors who remain at the UCC 24/7 will need a place to rest/sleep, take showers, etc., and food. Will this be available? Also along these lines, should I stockpile food, etc. in the UCC?

**University Police Department**

**Level I - First case of efficient human-to-human internationally:**
• Director and/or his designated representative will review the Southeastern Louisiana University Pandemic Emergency Operations Plan and brief all supervisors as the Department’s mission and responsibilities.
• The following actions will be accomplished:
1. Alert all officers and other employees for possible support operations during outbreak. Notify any officers on leave or in training off-campus of the need for them to return to duty.
2. Ensure department has adequate emergency supplies on-hand (i.e. surgical masks, plastic gloves)
3. Inspect all police units. If a unit is in maintenance request the Director, Physical Plant to expedite service.
4. Coordinate with Director, Physical Plant regarding alternate sources gasoline for police units.

- Initiate planning for traffic control, building checks, and overall security for the campus.
- Initiate coordination with the following agencies:
  1. Louisiana State Police, Troop L, Mandeville 504-893-6250.
  7. Area Hospitals: North Oaks Medical Center 345-2700 and Lallie Kemp Regional Medical Center 878-9241.

**Level II: Prepare to cancel classes and other scheduled activities; prepare for closing:**

- Director and/or his designated representative will attend any planning (task force) meetings.
- Finalize all plans for traffic control, building checks, and coordinate with the Director, Physical Plant for the delivery of barricades to predetermined locations, and the overall security posture of the campus.
- Finalize all planning and coordination with agencies listed above. Place all police officers, radio dispatchers, and key personnel on stand-by status and brief all supervisors on the outbreak status.
- Coordinate with the officers assigned to the Baton Rouge Center, the Livingston Parish Literacy and Technology Center, and the St. Tammany Center regarding the status of each center and the security for facilities.
- Submit a request to the Director, Telephone Services, to activate all phone and data lines in Department’s EOC Room, Pride Hall.
- Continue regular law enforcement and security operations.
• Update radio dispatchers with the most current information to inform individuals call the Department concerning the status of University operations.
• All personnel informed concerning their duties and responsibilities if the University proceeds into Evacuation and Closure of the Campus; Implementation of Emergency Support Operations.
• Continue coordination with the Louisiana Governor’s Office of Emergency Preparedness and the Tangipahoa Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.
• Evacuation and Closure of the Campus; Implementation of Emergency Support Operations.
• Implement traffic control, building check, and University Closure plans as well as regular law enforcement operations.
• Initiate call in of all police officers, radio dispatchers, and key personnel for shift assignments and scheduling.
• Initiate double shifts for the duration of the emergency.
• Direct the police officers assigned to the Baton Rouge Center, Livingston Parish Literacy and Technology Center, and the St. Tammany Center to report to the Department for assignment as soon as possible.
• Conduct building checks twice during each 12-hour shift and direct any person(s) found inside the building to leave the building and campus.
• Provide the radio dispatchers with as current as possible information concerning the status of the University for them to inform anyone calling requesting information.
• Request support from external agencies as may be needed.

Recovery Level: Campus poised to reopen.

• Notify all key personnel by telephone that the campus is open for business.
• Continue traffic control, building check, campus security operations as well as regular law enforcement operations.
• All administrative employees return to duty and begin routine operations.

Physical Plant

Pre-Level I- Prior to efficient human-to-human transmission:
• Identify essential buildings that will remain in operation if a pandemic flu emergency should occur.
  1. McClimans Hall
  2. Pride Hall
  3. Dyson Hall
  4. Vera Thomson Health Center
5. University Counseling Center
6. Designated Dorms
- Training of staff
- Evaluate and assess virus cleaning supplies
- Director of Building Services inventory cleaning supplies in all buildings and warehouse. Purchase any supplies that are lacking.

Level I- First case of efficient human-to-human internationally:
- Inform maintenance staff of pandemic flu emergency and begin to prepare non-essential buildings to be secured and vacated.

Level II: Prepare to cancel classes and other scheduled activities; prepare for closing:
- Director and designated representative attend meetings regarding pandemic flu emergency.
- Eliminate routine maintenance on campus.
- Require all designated maintenance and custodial staff to report and maintain all essential buildings.
  1. Work with University Police to begin to secure all non-essential buildings.
  2. Begin to gather cleaning supplies and other necessary equipment from non-essential buildings.
  3. Assist in distribution of supplies to designated areas.
  4. Contact all outside contractors working on campus and notify for preparation of campus closure.

Level III: All University residences will close; thereafter as soon as practicable most administrative offices and academic buildings will close.
- Director and designated representative manage the essential personnel working on campus.
- Maintain building services to essential buildings.
- Contact Physical Plant personnel and report University closure.
- Verify all outside contractors working on campus have been notified and have vacated campus.
- Begin cleaning of patient occupied rooms in Health Center (if Health Center request this service)
- Assist in distribution of supplies to designated areas.

Level IV: Campus closed except for skeletal services.
- Director and designated representative manage the essential personnel working on campus.
- Ensure essential buildings have services (HVAC, electricity, etc.)
- Continue cleaning of patient occupied rooms in Health Center (if Health Center request this service)
• Assist in distribution of supplies to designated areas.

Recovery Level: Campus poised to reopen.

• Contact all Physical Plant personnel and report re-opening of University and to report to work.
• Assist University Police in opening buildings.
• Perform building inspections and report deficiencies to work control for work orders.
• Director and designated representative review performance and review procedure to identify and changes necessary.

Office of Technology

Pre Level I- Prior to efficient human-to-human transmission:

• Review the Southeastern Louisiana University Flu Pandemic Plan and ensure all employees are knowledgeable of the plan.
• Update staffing changes and emergency contact information for all employees.
• Develop plans to support emergency support personnel/activities that may locate on the campus in support of emergency operations in the immediate or regional area.
• Determine the employees who will work through the emergency situation.

Level I- First case of efficient human-to-human internationally:

• Designate the equipment to be provided to the Special Needs Shelter, Kinesiology and Health Studies Building. Ensure all equipment is operational.
• Determine the employees who will back up employees designated to work through the emergency situation in event that a principal employee is not able to continue working.
• Ensure the emergency generators for McClimans Hall and McGehee Hall are operational and fueled to capacity.
• Directors will ensure the Assistant Vice-President for Technology, is informed of actions being taken and actions to be taken.

Level II: Prepare to cancel classes and other scheduled activities; prepare for closing:

• Ensure that communication systems are established and operational at the University Police Department and other locations in Pride Hall as needed.
• Inspect all telecommunications sites to ensure all sites are operational.
• Ensure all vehicles are fueled to capacity.
• Conduct communications systems checks to ensure systems are operational.
• Directors will ensure the Assistant Vice-President for Technology is informed of actions being taken and actions to be taken.

**Level III: All University residences will close; thereafter as soon as practicable most administrative offices and academic buildings will close.**

• Dispatch emergency support employees to their homes to prepare for the emergency and return to campus for their assignments.
• Ensure all communications systems at the University Police Department and Pride Hall are operational.
• Prepare to establish communications systems at the Southeastern Special Needs Shelter, Kinesiology and Health Studies Building.
• Coordinate with the Director, Campus Dining, for food service support.
• Coordinate with the Director, University Housing, for room assignments.
• Coordinate with the Director, University Health Center, in event employees need immunization.
• Directors will inform the Assistant Vice-President for Technology, of actions being taken and actions to be taken.

**Level IV: Campus closed except for skeletal services.**

• Release all non-essential employees.
• Transfer the University switchboard to the radio dispatch/communications office, University Police Department.
• Power down all non-essential telecommunications systems.
• Directors will inform the Assistant Vice-President for Technology, of actions taken and actions to be taken.

**Recovery Level: Campus poised to reopen.**

• Recall all employees released.
• Resume the University switchboard operations.
• Remove telecommunications equipment from the University Police Department and the lobby of Pride Hall as soon as possible.
• Remove telecommunications equipment from the Kinesiology and Health Studies Building as soon as possible.
• Coordinate with the State Office of Telecommunications Management as required.

**HEALTH CENTER**

**Pre Level I-** Prior to efficient human-to-human transmission:

• All staff members will attend a yearly pandemic preparedness continuing education program designed utilizing CDC and ACHA pandemic
preparedness documents. This program will be prepared by the health center director. This program will include an overview of the infection control policy & procedures.

- The director will monitor the CDC, WHO, and ACHA websites for the latest developments and updates on planning recommendations. Will monitor alert system for changes in level/phase.
- Each employee will be vaccinated yearly with the seasonal influenza vaccine.
- Each staff member will document a personal emergency plan for his-her family and will keep a copy of updated contact and emergency information at the health center.
- Food and lodging will be supplied for staff members who may be required to work at non-traditional hours. Schedule for 24 hour operation.
- Identify alternative staffing.
- Each employee will be fitted with N95 respiratory protection annually (include counseling and police department).
- Protocol for transport to hospital if 911 not available/Campus Security. To be written with input from Campus Police ***
- Develop a voice message and web based information to give sick student information about seeking medical care at the clinic or outside agency. (Script to be written and submitted to Public Info for approval)
- Questions related to stocking medications and protocol for distribution to be written

**Level I: First case of efficient human-to-human internationally:**

**Level II: Prepare to cancel classes and other scheduled activities; prepare for closing:**

- Complete listing of all students/staff remaining on campus along with personal information including how to notify next to kin must be available in the University Health Center.

**Level III: All University residences will close; thereafter as soon as practicable most administrative offices and academic buildings will close.**

**Level IV: Campus closed except for skeletal services.**

**Recovery Level:** Campus poised to reopen.
University Housing

Pre-Level I- Prior to efficient human-to-human transmission:
- Provide training for students and professional staff.
- Develop an educational and communication plan for resident students.
- Determine need of emergency supplies, cost and funding source.
- Develop a consolidation plan.

Level I- First case of efficient human-to-human internationally:
- Give information to communicate and update as needed.
- Educational and planning meetings with students and professional staff, work with UPD, UCC and health center.
- Inventory emergency supplies and purchases needed material.
- Resident staff to monitor their section of the hall and update professional staff daily.

Level II: Prepare to cancel classes and other scheduled activities; prepare for closing:
- Once classes are canceled begin closing the residence halls and determine needed space.
- Based on number of students who remain on campus determine need for housing.
- Place all professional staff on-call 24/7.
- Organize student emergency team based on who is available from student staff.
- Up-date website on all residence hall closures.
- Staff meets daily to assess needs.
- Develop list of students for Health Center.
- Establish closure timeline.

Level III: All University residences will close; thereafter as soon as practicable most administrative offices and academic buildings will close.
- Allow any non-essential staff to go home.
- Inventory remaining students on campus and implement consolidation plan.
- Maintain contact with remaining resident students.

Level IV: Campus closed except for skeletal services.
- Close all residence halls and secure buildings.

Recovery : Campus poised to reopen.
- Staff report to work.
- Assess all building conditions.
- Determine a re-opening date.
- Begin cleaning and disinfecting all rooms.
• Resume routine operations.

Public Information

Pre-Level I: Prior to efficient human-to-human transmission

• Develop a crisis communications plan focused on an influenza pandemic that will address both internal and external communications needs
• Identify essential personnel in the department
• Cross-train departmental staff to ensure critical functions are covered
• Develop educational material and “key messages” to educate university community about the possibilities of pandemic influenza
• Develop “look” of university pandemic website

Level I: First case of efficient human-to-human internationally

• Activate university pandemic website and post initial information
• Revise “key messages” according to new information
• Send campus wide e-mail alert with information as needed
• Select appropriate spokespersons for internal and external communications as needed
• Activate university info phone line
• Activate communications plan on where media calls go, where parent calls should be routed, and where other public calls should be directed
• Develop key messages for possibility of classes or university being closed
• Continue to cross-train departmental staff

Level II: Prepare to cancel classes and other scheduled activities; prepare for closing

• Monitor health of departmental staff
• Establish a university Communications Command Center (CCC)
• Allow work from home for some staff; essential healthy personnel report to work
• Refine key messages
• Activate telephone messaging system
• Update pandemic flu website and university home page
• Update e-mail messages for university community
• Issue news releases updating media on campus status
• Handle media inquiries, arrange interviews as needed

Level III: All University residences will close; thereafter as soon as practicable most administrative offices and academic buildings will close.
• Healthy essential staff report to work, others work from home
• Staff CCC
• Collect information from departments needed to communicate to key audiences
• Update and refine key messages
• Update telephone messaging system
• Update e-mail messages to university community
• Make Southeastern’s home page THE pandemic flu web site for the latest information on the university’s status. Website will include information on how individuals can protect themselves and links to other sources of information.
• Update web page as needed
• Issue news releases on developments and handle media inquiries

**Level IV: Campus closed except for skeletal services.**

• Get information needed from departments to communicate to key audiences
• Staff CCC
• Update and refine key messages
• Update telephone messaging system
• Update e-mail messages to university community
• Update Southeastern’s home page as needed with latest information
• Issue news releases on developments and handle media inquiries

**Recovery: Campus poised to reopen.**

• Update telephone messaging system
• Update e-mail messages to university community
• Update Southeastern’s home page as needed with latest information
• Issue news releases on developments and handle media inquiries
• Departmental staff report to work and resume routine operations
• Review communications plan and procedures to identify and make necessary changes for future

**International Students/Study Abroad**

**Pre-Level 1**

• Track and keep up to date records on all active study abroad students (addresses, emergency contact, phone numbers, cell phone, etc.)
• Conduct orientation at Southeastern that includes health and safety information on Pandemic Flu
• International students will be given a copy of the University’s Pandemic Flu emergency policy and plan
Level 1
- Study Abroad Office (SAO) makes contact with travel advisory teams to begin exit strategy and implement mass transit.
- SAO contacts State Dept. in DC
- SAO and Faculty Program Coordinator jointly make decision to stay or evacuate
- SAO informs campus officials on decisions
- An e-mail will be sent to all international students regarding the students mandatory attendance at a Town Hall meeting in regard to the possible threat

Level 2
- Remain in constant contact with travel advisory team
- Make sure funding is available for students who are unable to return. Funding will be used to provide shelter, food, water and other essentials.
- Students, if able, should return if they haven’t already
- Students unable to return are kept up to date via phones and e-mails
- Individual plans put into place for those unable to return
- International students will be encouraged to go home if possible
- For those international students who can not return home, the University’s plan for their housing, safety, food and health services will be disseminated to those living on campus

Level 3
- Follow up with travel advisory team and account for all students returned and not returned
- The plan for handling international students remaining on campus will be put into place

Level 4
- Same as Level 3
DRAFT of Memorandum to be sent to employees for direct deposit

MEMORANDUM

TO: Southeastern Louisiana University Employees Not Presently Utilizing Direct Deposit

FROM: Jessie R. Roberts, Director of Human Resources

RE: Important Information Pertaining to the Distribution of Pay in the Event of a Campus Closure Due to Pandemic Flu

As you may be aware, during the past several months the University has been actively working on its Pandemic Flu Preparedness Planning efforts. One critical service identified is the distribution of the University’s payroll. Please be advised that in the event the campus has to be closed in response to a Pandemic Flu outbreak, it will be necessary that the on-campus distribution of paychecks be suspended. However, distribution of paychecks by direct deposit will continue uninterrupted.

Therefore, it is our strong recommendation that you consider enrolling in the Payroll Direct Deposit program at this time. It takes approximately 1 week to process your sign-up for Direct Deposit through Payroll, so this is a good time to initiate the process. A copy of the Direct Deposit Authorization form is attached for your convenience. This form is also available on the Human Resources Office website at: http://www.selu.edu/admin/hr/forms/index.htm. Then select Direct Deposit Application Form.

If the campus closes due to a Pandemic Flu outbreak you will be unable to get your paycheck for an indeterminate period of time unless you are enrolled in direct deposit. Enrolling in direct deposit will help us make sure you get your paycheck funds on payday. You can access your paycheck information through the PeopleSoft Self-Service Display menu. Logon using your W# and your email password. Click on Employee Self-Service Display - Employee Self Service Display – Inquire – View Paycheck. You can also view your leave balances by clicking on Employee Self-Service Display - Employee Self Service Display – Inquire – Leave Balances.

Should you have any questions pertaining to direct deposit, please contact Payroll at (985) 549-2188.

Attachment: Direct Deposit Form

cc: President
    Vice Presidents
    Deans
    Directors
    Department Heads
Southeastern Louisiana University is dedicated to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for the many faculty, staff, students, and many visitors who visit our campus annually. With increasing concerns about a global outbreak of influenza or other possible viral diseases, the university is developing guidelines and communication plans to be used in the event of an outbreak of an influenza pandemic that could threaten the health and safety of students and staff.

This initial brochure is intended to provide you with basic information regarding a possible influenza outbreak and some of the steps the university may need to take in order to limit the spread of disease and to continue operations as normally as possible.

The university has appointed a pandemic planning council which will monitor the situation as it applies to our institution and which has been charged with periodically informing the campus community about developments and any steps that may be taken to protect the community. Information will be distributed via e-mail and Internet postings on the university’s website. We ask that all assume the responsibility of keeping themselves informed and prepared for a possible outbreak.

Frequently Asked Questions

**What is pandemic influenza?**
Pandemic influenza can be any virus that is easily spread and which can possibly cause serious illness and death. It differs from the usual “seasonal” outbreaks of flu in that it is a new virus to people and is likely to affect many more people and a broader set of the population -- including young adults -- than seasonal influenza.

**Why is there concern now about pandemic influenza?**
Flu viruses are constantly changing and appear just about every year. Pandemic influenza, however, has occurred three times in the last century, the most serious being the 1918 pandemic that killed tens of millions of people worldwide. Epidemiologists – scientists who study disease outbreaks – are predicting that statistically the world is at risk for another pandemic in the relatively near future.
And a severe pandemic would most likely change daily life for a period of time, including limitations on travel and public gatherings.

**Is this related to the “bird flu” or avian influenza now in Asia?**
The short answer is “possibly,” because this is a new virus that has the potential to become lethal and possibly develop into a pandemic influenza. The avian flu is spreading from birds to other animals and the virus has infected some people. In very rare cases, the virus has spread from one person to another. Currently, vaccines are being developed to possibly limit the spread of this disease.

**How fast would a pandemic flu spread?**
Because of the amount of worldwide travel, once pandemic influenza begins, it is likely to spread very rapidly. Influenza is an air-borne disease, meaning that it is usually spread by infected people coughing and sneezing. And, since this would be a new virus, most people would have little or no immunity to the disease. In general, however, most people who get sick will recover from the illness.

**Are some people at greater risk for illness?**
People who already have a health problem or who have weakened immune systems are likely to be at higher risk. Young children and older people tend to be at higher risk for disease as well. In addition, young adults – college-age students for example – could be at higher risk than the general population.

**Is there a treatment for this type of influenza?**
Right now the federal government and private pharmaceutical companies are developing possible vaccines that could be used to immunize people in the event of an outbreak. Antiviral medications – which can only be obtained by prescription – may also be used to lessen the severity of the disease. Plans are being developed to dispense these medications more easily if the situation warrants it.

**When a pandemic hits an area, how long would it last?**
That’s difficult to predict because so many variables are at play here. Estimates range from six weeks to two months for a pandemic virus impact on a region.

**What would Southeastern do if a pandemic hit this area?**
The university will implement an emergency response plan should a pandemic influenza affect this region. This includes the possibility of canceling classes for a period, setting up Internet or other distance learning programs, the possibility of shutting down residence halls, and the need to create an on-campus infirmary for individuals who need that assistance or who may need to be isolated from others. The campus community will be kept fully informed of any developments or policies that affect students and staff in the event of a pandemic outbreak.

**What can individuals do to prepare?**
Remember, right now there is no pandemic influenza in the U.S. or the world. It is important, however, that individuals stay informed about these developments, either through the university Health Center or via reliable Internet resources, such as www.pandemicflu.gov.

**For more information**
Southeastern’s Vera W. Thompson Health Center (985-549-2241) has additional information on pandemic influenza. In addition, the federal government maintains up-to-date, factual information and advice on the website, [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov).

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