

Centralia College

Pandemic Preparedness Plan – Overview

General—The potential for a pandemic outbreak of infectious disease is a continual threat and it is prudent to have guidelines in place to direct prevention, protection, and recovery efforts by Centralia College in the event a pandemic incident occurs. Health authorities have developed pandemic preparedness plans and will provide suggestions and/or directives in response to the threat of a pandemic event. These, or directives from the college president, will serve as guidelines for conduct for Centralia College and may be assigned, implemented or modified at any time at the discretion of the college president or Administrator In Charge (AIC).

Pandemic Preparedness Plan

- 1 **Use printed and electronic means** to advise the campus community of the potential of a pandemic event and describe actions to mitigate the possibility of infection/transmission
- 2 **Develop Web site postings** in multiple languages in multiple languages as resources and time allow to inform the campus community and general public of the college's response to a potential pandemic event
- 3 **To the extent possible, develop and send out messages** in multiple languages, including phone message or emergency message notification as appropriate and as resources and time permit
- 4 **Update student, faculty, and staff contact information** as well as emergency contact lists
- 5 **Encourage students and staff at higher risk of complications from a pandemic event** to check with their health care provider about their options
- 6 **Encourage students, faculty, and staff** to get vaccinated against seasonal/special flu/contagion
- 7 **Provide opportunities for students, faculty, and staff** to get vaccinated on campus for seasonal flu and and other contagions as vaccines are recommended and are available
- 8 **Advise sick students, faculty, and staff to stay at home** until at least 24 hours after they no longer have the flu or symptoms of contagion including fever or signs of a fever, sore throat, chills
- 9 **Provide easy access to tissues**, antiviral wipes and gels, and soap or alcohol-based hand cleaners
- 10 **Provide antiviral supplies** so that commonly used surfaces such as chairs, remote controls, and keyboards shared by students can be sanitized as directed by the president or area supervisor
- 11 **Departments establish schedule for frequent cleaning of surfaces and items** that are more likely to have frequent hand contact such as desks, door knobs, keyboards, or counters, with cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas
- 12 **Designate a National Incident Management System (NIMS) trained staff member** to serve as liaison between the college and appropriate health agencies and who will advise the president
- 13 **Identify and establish contact** with state and local public health and education agencies

If the contagion conditions are more severe, or if directed by local or state health agencies or directed by the college president, the college should consider adding the following:

- 14 **Find ways to increase social distances** (the space between people) in classrooms such as moving desks farther apart, leaving empty seats between students and using distance learning methods
- 15 **Encourage faculty and staff who are at higher risk for complications to stay home.** These individuals should make this decision in consultation with their health care provider and need to let their supervisor know of their status
- 16 **Consider cancelling events** where large groups of people would congregate
- 17 **Strongly encourage those who are sick with the flu or other contagion to stay home** at least 24 hours after symptoms have gone away
- 18 **Consider how and when to suspend classes** by working closely with local and state public health officials in coordination with the college president. The length of time classes should be suspended will be dictated by state and local directives or directives from the college president
- 19 **Develop a plan to continue previously identified** essential work in the event of the absence of key staff
- 20 **Departments should develop plans and options** for how work can be continued at home, if the college suspends classes