

Colorado State University International Travel Policy
H1N1 Influenza Pandemic
August 17, 2009 Update

The outbreak of novel H1N1 influenza (formerly known as swine flu) has proven to be very dynamic; the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continue to monitor the pandemic and make recommendations as more is learned about this flu strain and its behavior. The CSU Health Network /Hartshorn Health Service staff and International Programs staff are making every effort to provide the most current recommendations to CSU students, faculty and staff who are on campus and those who are planning to travel internationally. A vaccine for H1N1 is in development and should be available in mid-October, 2009, for administration to the public, initially for priority groups defined by CDC.

Background:

Early in the novel H1N1 outbreak in spring 2009, Colorado State University implemented a policy *suspending all non-essential travel to Mexico* and supported by campus health care professionals based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control. It applied to travel funded by or through the university for students, faculty or staff for study, research, business and other university-related activities. In June, 2009, even as the outbreak spread to become a pandemic, information about the virulence of the influenza strain became better understood and the policy suspending non-essential travel was lifted by the CDC and subsequently by CSU. There have been more recent cautions issued for travelers: some countries, most notably China and Japan, began screening arriving airline passengers for influenza symptoms before they are allowed to deplane. Passengers with symptoms have been quarantined for varying periods of time. These quarantines have resulted in travel and program disruptions. It is anticipated policies of this sort will continue in various countries as long as the pandemic continues. (See <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/content/news-announcements/delays-H1N1-screening.aspx>.)

CSU Policy:

Employees:

If a suspension of non-essential travel is issued by CDC, CSU intends to follow the guidelines put forth by CDC to maintain optimal health of CSU students and employees. In that case, employees who wish to request a waiver of the policy for *essential travel* must work with their Department Head and Dean, or supervising administrative officer, to determine whether or not the travel is deemed essential. The Dean or administrative officer will then ask for a waiver of the policy from the University Public Safety Committee who, in consultation with the Provost, health services, international programs and risk management, will make a final determination of approval for travel.

Students:

Students will not be permitted to travel on official CSU business without a special waiver of the policy as long as a CDC recommendation to suspend all non-essential travel is in place. A process similar to that described for employees will be employed if a waiver is requested. All student travel planning should include consultation about important health precautions with the Hartshorn Health Service/CSU Health Network, the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment, or personal physicians as well as International Programs. Even if there is no CDC non-essential travel suspension order in place International Programs will make determinations about student travel approvals based on the best information available

about risks and availability of health care at the destination, as well as the potential for unworkable program disruptions and delays.

Return to Campus:

Travelers returning to CSU from affected areas should monitor their health carefully for 7 days after return. If they develop fever and other flu-like symptoms, they should consult their health care providers, especially if they have severe illness or are at high risk for flu complications; ill persons should avoid leaving their homes, except to seek medical care, and limit contact with others. Please consult CDC's Travel Health Warning pages at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>.

Contact Information:

The current situation on H1N1 remains fluid. When a CDC advisory is in place, the University Public Safety Committee will review the policy and the situation weekly, or more frequently as the situation changes, with the intention of lifting restrictions as soon as possible.

This policy and updates will be posted on the university's web page at: www.safety.colostate.edu . The best national information source is <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>. Please contact the CSU Health Network (Dr. Jane Higgins , jane.higgins@colostate.edu 970-491-7121) and/or the Office of International Programs (Martha Denney martha.denney@colostate.edu 970-491-5917) if you have questions.