
Addendum to Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in Schools: Settings where Students Board

Source: MOHLTC Guidance for the Prevention and Management of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza Virus in Colleges & Universities, September 2009

III Students in Residences

Depending on the size of the residence and logistical feasibility, the institution should try to separate students with ILI in specific rooms or areas (e.g., rooms at one end of the hall, designated wing or floor).

Consider the following when caring for ill students with ILI in residence:

- Place students with ILI in a single room; if that isn't possible, consider cohorting students with ILI in the same dorm room
- In shared rooms, arrange beds so that students lie head to toe and consider creating temporary physical barriers between beds, using sheets, curtains, or other barriers
- Provide easy access to washrooms if possible, particularly when accommodating a group of ill students
- If communal washrooms are used, ensure that the facilities are cleaned frequently and, if possible, consider identifying an area with separate toilets and sinks for ill students
- Clean common areas more frequently
- Ensure ill students have access to food, water, and medications
- Encourage students that experience ILI symptoms and have risk factors for complications from the flu (e.g., chronic health problem that requires regular medical attention) to call their doctor, health care centre, or Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.
- Send ill students to their health care provider and/or hospital if they are experiencing severe signs and symptoms or their condition is worsening
- Reinforce hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette in these facilities.
- Encourage students to develop a personal preparedness strategy in the event that they get sick with influenza, which may include identifying who they will inform if they get sick, designating a potential "flu buddy" to check on them and assist when they are ill, and thinking about necessary supplies such as tissues, alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and other items.
- Students whose homes are not too far from the college or university should make contingency arrangements for a return to home until recovery is complete. NOTE transportation home in a private vehicle is strongly recommended while ill rather than using public or air transportation.

Ill Students Living off Campus

It is recommended that schools consider actions they should take to meet the needs of ill students living off campus – particularly if they live alone and do not have family or support systems in the community. Schools may wish to encourage students living off campus to establish a buddy system to make sure that a roommate, friend, or family member knows they are ill.

At a minimum, schools should have a means of communicating with ill students off campus.

Considerations Prior to Travel

Schools should communicate with individuals who are traveling from other parts of province in advance of their travel and advise them not to travel while ill.