

April 29, 2009

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 08-41
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: ESTHER R. JOHNSON, Ed.D.
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: H1N1 Flu Outbreak Information

1. Purpose. To inform Job Corps centers about the recent outbreak of H1N1 flu and to provide pandemic planning resources and everyday tips to protect students and staff from contracting the virus.
2. Background. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 47 confirmed cases of H1N1 flu have been reported in the United States this year. Symptoms in the U.S. remain relatively mild and no fatalities have been reported. In Mexico, 26 confirmed cases and 172 suspected cases of human H1N1 flu had been reported this year as of April 28, 2009. CDC is working closely with state and local officials in California, Kansas, New York, Ohio, and Texas to investigate the human cases of H1N1 flu reported in those areas. In light of the number of confirmed cases reported internationally, the WHO Director-General raised the influenza pandemic alert level from Phase 3 to Phase 4 as of April 27, 2009. Phase 4 indicates that there is a significant increase in risk of a pandemic, but it does not mean that a pandemic is imminent. Therefore, it is important to remember that there is no human influenza pandemic at this time.
3. Action. Job Corps centers are encouraged to review their pandemic flu plans to prepare for the potential for H1N1 flu outbreaks on or near the center. For guidance on the planning and preparation for a pandemic influenza, refer to Job Corps Information Notice No. 06-08, "Pandemic Influenza Preparation for Job Corps" (September 11, 2007). A copy of the directive can be downloaded from the Job Corps Community Web Site. Centers are also encouraged to contact their state and/or local health department to obtain the latest information about

implementation of state and/or local pandemic flu plans in response to H1N1 flu cases in the area. Centers should continue to use the Significant Incident Report (SIR) system to keep the National and Regional Offices of Job Corps informed about known or suspected cases of H1N1 flu on center.

Job Corps centers, especially centers located in states where confirmed cases of human H1N1 flu have been reported, are encouraged to share with students and staff the following tips for controlling the spread of communicable diseases, such as H1N1 flu, on center:

- a. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- b. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- c. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- d. Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- e. Encourage residential students to report to the wellness center if they become ill. Sick nonresidential students and staff should be encouraged to stay home and limit contact with others.

For the most current information on CDC's human H1N1 flu investigation, visit their Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/investigation.htm>. Additional information is available through the following Web sites:

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

<http://alerts.nsc.org>

4. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

5. Inquiries. Direct all inquiries to Marsha Fitzhugh at (202) 693-3099 or fitzhugh.marsha@dol.gov, Kelley Clark at (202) 693-3089 or clark.kelley@dol.gov, or Heather Edmonds at (202) 693-3774 or edmonds.heather@dol.gov.