

UWRF School Counseling Program – H1N1 Policy

The School Counseling Program at UW-River Falls has developed an H1N1 virus policy in preparation for the possibility of a flu epidemic during the current 2009-2010 school year. Some estimates suggest that 30-50% of Americans may contract the H1N1 virus this year, many needing to be isolated from others for two weeks or more.

Awareness and prevention efforts are critical to reducing the spread of this virus and minimizing its effects. Influenza is thought to spread person-to-person through coughing or sneezing. The School Counseling Program encourages students, faculty, field-based supervisors, practicum students to stay home if they feel any flu-like symptoms, taking care to wash hands and call their doctors if symptoms become severe.

Current students, faculty, and field based supervisors supporting the School Counseling Program should be aware of the following information:

Courses

The School Counseling program requirements and expectations cannot be excused due to an H1N1 virus epidemic. In the event a student contracts the H1N1 virus or other extended illness, the student may receive a grade of Incomplete (I) until all requirements are properly met.

Should the H1N1 virus become problematic at UWRF or the surrounding areas, the School Counseling Program faculty will utilize flexibility in terms of due dates and attendance. However, please, check with each individual professor for specific expectations.

Practicum

Students are expected to complete all 600 hours of the required field-based experiences, even if it requires continuing the field experience into the Spring 2010 semester.

Should a practicum student's field-based supervisor become ill for an extended length of time, another appropriately credentialed supervisor must be assigned immediately.

Missed field-supervision hours may necessitate extending the field experience beyond the normal time frame. Practicum students are encouraged to have a backup supervisor identified early in the fall semester. Additionally, practicum students are encouraged to add as many field based hours as possible, early in the fall, in preparation for the possibility of an H1N1 epidemic.

Additional Information Available Online

- [Flu.gov](http://flu.gov)
- [CDC Swine Flu home page](#)
- [CDC Q&A](#)
- [CDC School Planning for Pandemic Flu](#)
- [The National Association of School Nurses](#)
- [The National Parent Teacher Association](#)
- Fact sheets from the CDC are available in English, Spanish, Somali, and Vietnamese at the [San Diego Unified Schools website](#).

Adopted by the program faculty on September 2, 2009