

September 3, 2009

An Open Letter to the Coker College Community:

As you may know, flu can be spread easily from person to person. Therefore, we are taking steps to prevent the spread of flu at Coker College for as long as possible, **but we need your help to accomplish this.**

We are working closely with South Carolina health officials to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning our college. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available to us.

For now, we are doing everything we can to keep our college operating as normal. Here are a few things you can do to help:

- **Practice good hand hygiene** by washing your hands with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleaners also are effective.
- **Practice respiratory etiquette** by covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hands. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth; germs are spread this way.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** A fever is a temperature taken with a thermometer that is equal to or greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius. Look for possible signs of fever: if the person feels very warm, has a flushed appearance, or is sweating or shivering.
- **Go home if you have flu or flu-like illness until you no longer have a fever** (100 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius) or signs of a fever (have chills, feel very warm, have a flushed appearance, or are sweating) for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (any medicine that contains ibuprofen or acetaminophen). Don't go to class or work. If you live in the residence halls, your RA will have disposable thermometers.
 - If you are a student and must miss class, please contact your professor ASAP and notify us at flu@coker.edu.
 - If you are an employee and cannot come to work, please contact your supervisor.
- **Talk with your health care providers about whether you should be vaccinated for seasonal flu.** Also if you are at higher risk for flu complications from 2009 H1N1 flu, you should consider getting the H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available. People at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 flu complications include pregnant women and people with chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, heart disease, or diabetes). For more information about priority groups for vaccination, visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/acip.htm.

If this year's flu season becomes more severe, we may take the following additional steps to prevent the spread of the virus:

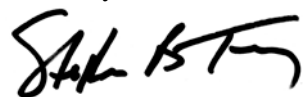
- **Allow students, faculty, and staff at higher risk for complications to stay home.** These students, faculty, and staff should make this decision in consultation with their health care provider.
- **Extend the time sick students, faculty, or staff stay home or in their residence.** During severe flu conditions sick people should stay home until at least 24 hours after the fever has returned to normal without fever reducing medicine. Symptoms of flu include fever or chills *and* cough or sore throat. In addition, symptoms of flu can include runny nose, body aches, headache, tiredness, diarrhea, or vomiting.
- **Suspend classes.** This decision will be made together with local and state public health officials. The length of time classes should be suspended will depend on the goal of suspending classes as well as the severity and extent of illness.

Coker College reserves the right to continue to monitor the H1N1 Flu Outbreak and make informed decisions concerning the cancellation of study abroad travel based on CDC Advisories and our understanding of the health concerns in countries selected as trip destinations in closer proximity to time of departure.

For more information about flu and what our institution is doing, visit www.coker.edu/h1n1. For the most up-to-date information on flu, visit www.flu.gov, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636).

We will notify you at www.coker.edu of additional changes to our institution's strategy to prevent the spread of flu on our campus. If you feel you have the flu, contact flu@coker.edu.

Sincerely,



Stephen B. Terry
Vice President of Student and Enrollment Services



COKER COLLEGE