

Update from Sheridan's Pandemic Emergency Response Team – October 23, 2009

Message to Sheridan Employees:

*Sheridan's Pandemic Emergency Response Team is continuing to closely monitor the H1N1 outbreak. **Since there is no widely available accurate test for H1N1 flu, anyone with the following symptoms is considered to have an "influenza-like illness":***

- ***sudden onset of fever***

And one or more of the following:

- ***headache***
- ***chills***
- ***muscle aches***
- ***physical exhaustion***
- ***dry cough with subsequent onset of sore throat, stuffy or runny nose and worsening cough***

Cold symptoms, sore throat or cough without fever are NOT considered to be flu.

It is critical that members of the Sheridan community stay home from work or school and limit contact with others if they have influenza-like symptoms, in order to prevent the spread of illness. Do not return to work or school until you are symptom free and you feel well enough to resume normal activities. It is equally important to communicate your health status promptly so that we are fully aware of the impact of H1N1 on our community.

*Should you fall ill and therefore will be absent from work, please report this as you normally do to your supervisor/manager. If you will be absent, you are asked to specifically identify if you yourself are ill with influenza-like illness, or if you are home caring for an individual with influenza-like illness. This information will be reported on a special on-line form by your department/school's absence recorder, to assist us in tracking the incidence of this illness at Sheridan.**

Please note that Sheridan will NOT require you to provide a doctor's note regarding your illness with influenza-like symptoms.

We will continue to monitor the pandemic and its possible impact on our community, and will keep you updated on a regular basis.

**Information on this form is being collected to assist the College in making operational decisions, and for disclosure of the information in compelling circumstances that affect the health and safety of others. This information is being collected under the Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Act, 2002, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1990, and the Occupiers Liability Act, 1990. Questions about this collection may be directed to Susan Atkinson at ext. 2096 or susan.atkinson@sheridaninstitute.ca*

For more information on the H1N1 flu strain, please visit one of the following public health websites:

Peel Public Health

<http://www.peelregion.ca/health/pandemic/>

Halton Public Health

http://www.halton.ca/health/services/communicable_disease/pandemic_influenza.htm