

Members of the Campus Community,

On April 26, 2009, the U.S. government announced a public health state of emergency regarding the swine flu, which has impacted persons in several countries around the world. Yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon, the World Health Organization (WHO) raised its alert level to Phase 5, the next-to-highest level in the worldwide warning system. (Phase 6 means a pandemic is under way.)

Members of University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) administration have already met about the situation and are taking appropriate action as required by our Pandemic Influenza Plan. Our Pandemic Plan has been in place since the avian flu was deemed a threat some years ago. Currently, the school has done everything our Pandemic Plan has required. Changes in the WHO alert levels automatically trigger new aspects of the implementation of our Pandemic Plan.

In matters of health, the University of North Carolina School of the Arts is governed by the Forsyth County Department of Public Health. We have met with and have been receiving updates from the Forsyth County Department of Public Health. Our actions will directly correlate with instructions from county public health officials.

We are constantly monitoring the situation with regard to information released from the U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, tomorrow (Friday), University of North Carolina General Administration is conducting a swine flu briefing via video conference for all of its universities.

UNCSA has set up a web page on our website that is devoted to swine flu information at [www.uncsa.edu/announcement/swineflu.htm](http://www.uncsa.edu/announcement/swineflu.htm). Here you will be able to find updates as they are available and as conditions change. You can also visit the county health department site at: [www.co.forsyth.nc.us/PublicHealth/?NewsID=2076](http://www.co.forsyth.nc.us/PublicHealth/?NewsID=2076) and the CDC site at: [www.cdc.gov/swineflu/](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/). The Forsyth County Department of Public Health also has a pre-recorded message on swine flu available by calling 336-703-3350.

Currently, there are no confirmed cases of swine flu in North Carolina, but that could change at any time.

We are asking students to visit our Student Health Services center or your local physician if you are feeling ill and have flu-like symptoms. We are asking students to not attend classes once you begin having flu-like symptoms, in order to minimize contact with other persons, which might cause the flu to spread further.

Likewise, we are asking faculty and staff to visit your local physicians if you are feeling ill and have flu-like symptoms. We are also asking faculty and staff not to teach classes or come to work once you begin having flu-like symptoms, in order to minimize contact with other persons.

You may be surprised to learn that one of the best things to do to protect yourself against any type of flu is regular hand-washing. For more information, visit our web page at: [www.uncsa.edu/announcement/swineflu.htm](http://www.uncsa.edu/announcement/swineflu.htm).

Any questions or concerns regarding swine flu and students' health should be directed to the UNCSA Student Health Services at 336-770-3288.

Deb Cheesebro  
Director of Police and Public Safety