



FEMA

April 15, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Fire Academy and Emergency Management Institute Students

FROM: Ronald P. Face, Jr.  
Director  
Management Operations and Support Services Division

SUBJECT: H1N1 Flu/communicable diseases

By now, I am sure you have seen press reports of the H1N1 flu outbreak in the United States, Canada, and Mexico and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concerns that this flu might resurface. The National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland, is taking necessary precautions to prevent the outbreak and spread of this disease.

At the NETC, we encourage these everyday actions to prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like influenza. Take these everyday steps to protect your health:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Please use the alcohol based hand cleaners dispensers in the lavatories, hallways, cafeteria, and gym areas before you enter. Clean any exercise equipment after you use it.
- If you become ill with influenza-like symptoms, including fever, body aches, runny nose, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting or diarrhea, please contact our Security Office for transportation to medical treatment.

In addition to sharing these precautions, we are encouraging NETC staff and students to utilize the following web-based resources for information:

- The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Homeland Security are working in coordination with local, state and international public health agencies to gather information and keep lines of communication open. Public health officials have increased monitoring and surveillance efforts. They are encouraging people to contact their public health offices and their physicians if they think they may have been exposed. The Department of Health and Human Services is providing up-to-date influenza information at <http://pandemicflu.gov>.
- The Centers for Disease Control are posting all the latest information about what is happening here in the U.S. and Mexico with the H1N1 flu, and you can log on to their website at [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu).

**If you have been accepted to a National Fire Academy or Emergency Management Institute course and you have flu-like symptoms, you should cancel your attendance at the scheduled course offering.** When cancelling, please provide the cancellation in writing and explain that you have flu-like symptoms. You may email your cancellation to [netc-admissions@dhs.gov](mailto:netc-admissions@dhs.gov) or fax it to 301-447-1441. Any student who cancels from their scheduled course because they have flu-like symptoms and have provided the written notice of cancellation to NETC will be given priority placement in a future offering of the course in which they cancelled.