

PROTOCOL FOR THE H1N1 VIRUS SITUATION

As of August 2009



Educational Programs of
GLOBALINKS
LEARNING ABROAD

GlobaLinks Learning Abroad

The H1N1 virus, commonly known as the Swine Flu, has been in the news for the past few months as the outbreak of cases of H1N1 are growing worldwide. This influenza virus is easily spread and has reached pandemic proportions according to the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We advise students who are undertaking a study abroad program about the risks of this flu, the potential impact to their program abroad, and ways in which they can maintain their health and well-being.

We are monitoring the information regarding the H1N1 (Swine) Flu. We will continue to review the advice presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as travel advisories / warnings provided by the U.S. Department of State and other government organizations.

We are committed to providing information to our students about this critical health issue. Currently there are no changes to our operations or programs as a result of the H1N1 (swine) Flu. Our emergency plan is in place for GlobaLinks Learning Abroad programs and we will make adjustments as appropriate. We have shared this advice and communication with all concerned parties in our environment and we will continue to update and add to this information into the future.

Should you have any questions about our program or this response to the H1N1 situation, please contact us at 1-800-980-0033 between the hours of 8-5pm MST or through studyabroad@globalinksabroad.org.

We are communicating with our constituents in the following ways and this information can be accessed in the Health and Safety sections of our program websites:

http://www.australearn.org/about/health_and_safety/

http://www.asialearn.org/about/health_and_safety/

http://www.eurolearn.org/about/health_and_safety/

Students

Those who are currently studying abroad and those preparing to study abroad in the next 2 months:

- Several communications were sent to students in May, June, and September 2009 with H1N1 updates.
- Departure information was provided with H1N1 updates, information about the potential of quarantine, special on-arrival screening procedures and advice against traveling while ill.

Newly accepted students are provided links to information on our website regarding H1N1 with a reminder that they should be alert to this and other health and safety related issues. Content of these communications includes:

- Insurance – trip cancellation consideration
- Sources of information based on their country and programs
- References to CDC and other health related sites
- How to maintain health and wellness
- Recommendations for not traveling if ill
- Possibility of quarantine on arrival
- Potential travel delays on arrival for screening of temperature in some countries

12050 N. Pecos Street
Suite 320
Westminster, CO 80234
USA

Tel: +1-303-446-2214
Fax: +1-303-446-5955
1-800-980-0033
studyabroad@australearn.org
org

www.australearn.org
www.asialearn.org
www.eurolearn.org

Parents

We have a parent section on our website that details health and safety, including information about H1N1. We also conduct phone conversations with parents and provide additional outreach as needed.

Advisors

Advisors were provided with the details related to H1N1 consistent with that provided to the students. We will continue to update advisors in this manner.

International Partners

We review our international partner websites regarding the H1N1 situation at their campuses and we share relevant information with students and advisors.

A request has been sent to host university partners to provide monthly updates relevant to H1N1, including any special quarantine circumstances, screenings, and other support services for students.

Special Comments

Insurance

All students studying abroad with GlobalLinks Learning Abroad have international health insurance. There are no special provisions or exclusions for H1N1. In addition, we utilize our insurance providers resources for advice and information on H1N1 and other health concerns.

Cancellation / Refund Policies

Existing cancellation/refund policies remain in effect for students related to this situation. Students should monitor their health prior to departure and avoid travel when they are showing symptoms of illness. We inform students of the risk of quarantine upon arrival and the possibility of delaying their academic program should they arrive ill. We have plans and resources in place to assist students who may be delayed due to illness and/or quarantine. Students will be helped by the host university where possible to maintain academic course work.

Should students decide of their own fruition to return home based on a fear of H1N1 infection, we will apply the same policy as we do for other non-emergency student decisions to return home. Should travel or local conditions change based on governmental warnings or our assessment of the situation, we will reassess and take appropriate actions as warranted.