

TAB SS- INFECTIOUS OUTBREAK OR PANDEMIC

I. Definition of the Event

A pandemic is a global disease outbreak which, for the purposes of this document, has infected or threatens to infect students, faculty, staff or other members of the campus community. This document also applies to an outbreak of illness on campus that has not been identified as a pandemic or has otherwise not impacted the outside community.

II. Scope of Potential Impact

The Emergency Preparedness Committee, in conjunction with the Office of Student Life and UPMC MyHealth@School Center, will decide whether a pandemic or illness outbreak has the potential to impact campus operations and what actions need to be taken. A pandemic has the potential to impact the Moon Township campus as well as any satellite locations.

III. Required Actions

A. General actions: Actions include communicating information about how to prevent the pandemic from being spread to the campus community; providing resources, including vaccines, for preventing the spread of the disease; relocating and quarantining afflicted students, faculty or staff; and, in extreme conditions, closing campus.

B. Communications

The Emergency Preparedness Committee will provide information about the pandemic as needed to faculty, staff and students. This will be done in conjunction with the Office of the President, Student Life and Student Health Services, in response to media coverage or after updates on the pandemic from government health agencies. These include the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Allegheny County Health Department. The vice president of public relations will determine, in consultation with relevant university officials, what form these communications should take for employees, and assist as necessary Student Life in providing information to students.

These communications should summarize the latest information provided by health agencies, university policies regarding students or employees who are diagnosed with the disease, and guidelines on prevention. When necessary, they should also describe the university's response to an outbreak on campus.

C. Prevention

Communications will be an important component of preventing and/or containing a pandemic outbreak on campus. These communications should always include tips for practicing basic hygiene and preventing the spread of communicable illness. Student Life administers the plan for conveying to students information about preventing the spread of illness, and this plan should be updated regularly.

As part of a larger public health communications campaign on campus, the university has installed hand-sanitizer dispensers at various locations on campus. Adjacent to these dispensers are posters describing good hygiene practices. This information should be updated as necessary.

In the event of a pandemic or other campus outbreak, the Emergency Preparedness Committee will convene a task force that includes representatives from all campus departments and functions to review sanitation and hygiene procedures in each of its members' areas, and make adjustments accordingly.

D. Response

a. Employees

The university will adopt CDC guidelines as official policy regarding actions taken in the event that an employee is diagnosed with a pandemic illness. These specify the amount of time an employee should stay home from work, and what kind of sanitation is required by departmental employees in the event a co-worker becomes ill with the disease. In the event of an outbreak on campus of an illness that has not been identified as a pandemic, the university also will seek guidance from the Allegheny County Department of Health.

b. Students

UPMC MyHealth@School Center will maintain a log of all reported cases of illness with symptoms similar to pandemic disease. This information will be used to measure the level of any outbreak on the campus and shape the appropriate response. This information, maintaining anonymity for each case, will be provided on a regular and ongoing basis to the co-chairs of the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Non-resident students who are diagnosed with the illness will be asked to stay at home per the CDC guidelines. Resident students who live within 50 miles of campus will be asked to return home, assuming transportation is available, and recuperate there. In the event that this plan is executed, the co-chairs of the Emergency Preparedness Committee will call a meeting of the Incident Response Team, which will assess the situation on campus and determine what further action is necessary.

Resident students who can recuperate in isolation in their dorm rooms will do so, as long as they have access to a private bathroom. Otherwise, ill students will be moved to available rooms on campus or, if necessary, in hotel rooms off campus. This process will be coordinated by the Office of Residence Life, Student Life and Business Operations.

IV. Reporting

A. Identify Initial Reporting Channels. Use RMU All Hazards Plan Incident Response Team Phone List to contact RMU administrators who must react to or be made aware of the event immediately.

B. Identify Recurring Reporting Channels. Use RMU All Hazards Plan Incident Response Team Phone List to contact particular RMU administrators who must put into effect a more long-term solution to the event or who wish to be updated periodically for safety, health, or continuity of operations purposes.

C. Identify Follow-up Reporting Channels (post-event reporting). List RMU and off-campus agencies who should receive a final action report regarding any or all aspects of the event.

V. Primary Contacts

** Additional contact phone numbers related to the IRT is available at the RMU Police Department of Facilities Department.

VI. Shortfalls/Limitations

Identify any Shortfalls

No shortfalls are identified. RMU currently has a limited staff in the UPMC MyHealth@School Center that may be strained in the event of a widespread campus outbreak. Also, currently there is no excess housing space on campus in which to quarantine students.

Identify any Limitations. No known limitations.