



## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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### Statement on H1N1 influenza and Study Abroad, June 12, 2009

The Office for Study Abroad continues to monitor the H1N1 “swine flu” situation as it evolves worldwide.

On Thursday, June 11, Dr. Margaret Chan, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, raised their pandemic alert level from phase 5 to phase 6. The change occurred because the scientific criteria for an influenza pandemic has been met, based on the spread of H1N1 influenza A to many countries around the world.

Dr. Chan emphasized that the overall severity of the pandemic is moderate: most individuals recover from the infection without the need for hospitalization, overall levels of serious illness appear similar to seasonal influenza, and hospitals and health care systems have been able to accommodate people seeking care. WHO continues to recommend no restrictions on travel and no border closures.

While we are keeping abreast of updates on this situation, we encourage you to do so as well. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is not making any specific recommendations regarding travel at this time. All individuals should take steps to reduce their chance of infection. The following links provide information from the World Health Organization (WHO), CDC, US Department of State, and the University of Iowa regarding Swine Flu.

WHO reports, including specific location of cases to date:  
<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>

CDC general H1N1 influenza information: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

CDC information specific to Mexico: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/contentSwineFluMexico.aspx>

CDC information specific to travelers: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/contentSwineFluTravel.aspx>

CDC Travel Notices page, where the current recommendations for or against travel to a given destination are routinely updated: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/>

H1N1 influenza outbreak information on the US State Department website:  
[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_4488.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_4488.html)

University of Iowa Health Care

<http://medcom.uiowa.edu/flu/>

We will contact program participants by e-mail regarding any decisions affecting any of our programs. In the meantime, program staff and faculty will continue planning for a rewarding term abroad.

Janis Perkins, Director  
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The University of Iowa