



READINESS RULES

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<http://www.osep.uga.edu>

Office of Security & Emergency Preparedness Bulletin

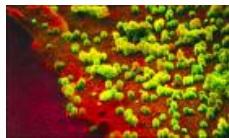
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Featured Article

H1N1 Influenza Virus

April of 2009 saw the discovery of a novel influenza A virus, referred to as the H1N1 flu virus or swine flu.

A novel virus means no herd immunity in the human population. A lack of



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the human population means that a larger percentage of the population is likely to catch the virus. As of May 20, 2009, the CDC reported there were 5,710 confirmed or probable cases of H1N1 influenza A in the United States and that 8 people had died due to the illness.

The influenza virus is difficult to contain for many reasons. Individuals who contract the flu will be contagious and able to spread the flu before showing any symptoms. The flu also rapidly mutates which means that vaccines for the flu have to be updated on a regular basis. The flu has a reservoir in pigs, birds, and other animals allowing it to survive and mutate even when it is not infecting humans. The flu virus also appears in waves spreading through an area and often returning several months later.

Determining the danger posed by the new H1N1 flu can be difficult. While the current H1N1 virus appears to be more contagious than the seasonal flu, it has only caused a mild illness in rather healthy people. The new H1N1 virus is also more common

among younger age groups compared with the with the seasonal flu.

There are many unknowns about the current H1N1 flu, but advice on being prepared is similar to seasonal flu preparedness. Steps you can take to make sure you and your family are prepared are:

- get a flu shot
- pay attention to news from the CDC, your health department and other sources about the flu
- stay home if you are sick
- cover your mouth when you cough
- wash your hands regularly.

The Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness (OSEP) will continue to monitor the H1N1 Influenza A virus and post updates at www.osep.uga.edu.

UGA develops “Plan, Prepare, React” Active Shooter Response Training Program



The Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness and the UGA Police Department, with video assistance from the UGA Public Affairs Office, recently developed the “Plan, Prepare, React” training program. The project, funded by the University System of Georgia, is intended to provide students, faculty and staff with response options for active shooter situations.

The training program consists of a two-CD set that contains a 10-minute video, a one-hour PowerPoint training program, checklists and a training activity. Although the focus of the training program is response to active shooters, the message that is prevalent throughout the training materials is one of preparedness. Students, faculty and staff should consider the various emergencies that could befall them on campus and out in their community and have a simple and immediate response plan to deal with each situation. Most emergencies are not as dangerous and as violent as an active shooter situation, but maintaining situational awareness, knowing several exits out of any building you frequent and mentally rehearsing the appropriate way to respond to an emergency are proven methods for survival.

The training program will be distributed to all 35 University System institutions in June. Train-the-trainer sessions will be held across the state for public safety and emergency management individuals who will conduct the training program on their campuses.

Log on to www.osep.uga.edu to view upcoming active shooter response training classes on the UGA campus. To schedule a training class for your department or unit, contact OSEP by e-mail at osep@uga.edu or by phone at (706) 542-5845.

Social Networking May Provide a Link to Encourage Student Emergency Preparedness



Most people wait for an emergency to happen before they worry about planning for one. While getting the average person to spend a few minutes planning for an emergency may be difficult, trying to reach college students with this planning message is even more challenging. To assist in communicating with students, The Office of


Security and Emergency Preparedness is trying a novel approach – asking students what are the best methods to communicate preparedness information to them. The prevailing answer students provided was to use the tools that students use themselves – Facebook and videos.

OSEP, with the help of several students, created a presence on the popular social networking site, Facebook, for the department. While students are keeping up with their friends, they can easily obtain information about upcoming OSEP lectures, training opportunities, drills and simulations and read the latest on emergency planning tips. If you have a Facebook account, consider becoming a fan of the “Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness” Facebook page located at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Athens-GA/Office-of-Security-and-Emergency-Preparedness/47257981423>.

Furthermore, in order to make sure that students, faculty and staff can be reached during a major campus emergency, OSEP administers the UGAAlert emergency notification system. One of the key ingredients in making sure that the University community receives UGAAlert messages is to have students, faculty and staff update their UGAAlert accounts with accurate emergency contact information using their individualized notification preferences. To help publicize this effort, Mark Jordan with Enterprise Information Technology Services (EITS) created a 1950’s style public service video announcement. Mark’s video creation is a parody of the civil defense campaigns from the 1950’s and 1960’s era. The UGAAlert video may be viewed by logging onto OSEP’s Facebook page. v



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