

# PERSONAL PLANNING GUIDE FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS - LAWRENCE CAMPUS

**A**n influenza pandemic on the University of Kansas campus may cause the University to close for an extended period of time. Social distancing (reducing the frequency, proximity and duration of contact between people to reduce the chances of spreading the disease) would be necessary.

The University has a plan in place in case of a pandemic, but it is important for individuals and families to take proactive steps to also prepare. **The following tips and information will help you and/or your family plan in advance for pandemic influenza:**

## COMMUNICATION

Before a pandemic begins, talk to your family about the possibility of a pandemic outbreak. Be sure that you have the correct information on how to limit the spread of germs and to prevent infection. Next, make a plan with your family on how you will communicate during a pandemic. Consider alternate means of communication, such as email, in case phone lines are down so you know how to stay connected.

It is important to think about health issues that could arise if a pandemic occurs and how they could affect you and your loved ones. For example, if a mass vaccination clinic is set up in your community, you may need to provide as much information as you can about your medical history when you go, especially if you have a serious health condition or allergy. Develop a family disaster plan or fill out the Homeland Security Family Emergency Plan, which can be found at [www.ready.gov/america/\\_downloads/familyemergencyplan.pdf](http://www.ready.gov/america/_downloads/familyemergencyplan.pdf). Like much of the planning for a pandemic, this can also help prepare for other emergencies.

## TRANSPORTATION

In case of a pandemic, it may be necessary to close the campus. For those who live locally, you are likely to simply return to your home. For those who do not reside locally, we encourage you to identify one or more relocation options that will provide you with a place to reside until such time as the public health crisis has passed. Consider the following questions when developing your plan:

- If KU must close, where will you go?
- Can someone pick you up from campus or do you have the ability to get home from campus (a vehicle on campus, a friend to ride with or available funds to purchase a bus/train/plane ticket)?
- Public transportation, such as the bus system and airlines, may not be operable during this time. Do you have an alternate mode of travel?
- If you are not from the immediate area, is there a relative or friend that can take you in until the necessary arrangements can be made for you to get home?
- You may only have a few hours to evacuate in case of a flu pandemic. What essential items will you take with you?

Be sure you talk with your family to ensure there is mutual agreement on what you should do and where you should stay in case of pandemic influenza. Communicate your plan to your family and provide them with the name and contact information of the people you have identified as possible residential options.

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## KU EMPLOYEES

University of Kansas employees identified to be essential or emergency personnel may be asked to continue working even in the event of a campus closure. Here are a few considerations for employees when preparing a flu pandemic plan:

- Public transportation, such as the bus system, may not be operable during this time. Do you have an alternate means to get to work?
- If you receive approval from your department, do you have the necessary equipment to work from home?
- Child care and other family care facilities may be closed during this time. Do you have other options to care for your family while you are working?

## INFORMATION

Campus closure could last weeks and even months. In case of a pandemic, be sure that you have provided KU with updated emergency contact information. You can do this by logging onto your KYou Portal account. Also, regularly check your KU email account for University and course information updates. This will be your primary communication channel with the University during a pandemic, including individual course instructor procedures.

For official information and a current assessment of pandemic influenza, you should rely only on official government sources, such as the ones listed below. For the latest pandemic information at the University, go to [www.pandemic.ku.edu](http://www.pandemic.ku.edu).

## RESOURCES

### **The University of Kansas**

Student Health Services  
1200 Schwegler Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66045  
(785) 864-9525  
[www.pandemic.ku.edu](http://www.pandemic.ku.edu)

### **Kansas Department of Health & Environment**

1000 SW Jackson, Suite 300  
Topeka, KS 66612  
(785) 296-1086  
[www.kdhe.state.ks.us](http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us)

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30333  
1-800-311-3435  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)