

Fall 2009 Law School Emergency Preparedness Notice

Communications and the Potential for Closing the IUPUI Campus

The decision to close the campus, including the law school, is made by the IUPUI central administration. The IUPUI central administration will be the first entity to notify all campus constituents of any closing.

Communications from the IUPUI central administration about campus-wide closures will be posted to the IUPUI website (<http://www.iupui.edu>) and delivered by email to all students, faculty, and staff.

To ensure you are timely notified by email, phone call, and/or text when an emergency occurs at IUPUI, all students, faculty, and staff should sign up for the IUPUI emergency notification system. Sign up for "IU-Notify" through Onestart <https://onestart.iu.edu>. See <https://kb.iu.edu/data/avvp.html> for more information.

Further, students, faculty, and staff should monitor updates posted to the IUPUI Emergency Preparedness page found here: <http://www.iupui.edu/~prepared/h1n1/>. These updates include whether campus remains open in the event of an emergency.

Illness and the Law School Attendance Policy

Even if there is not a campus closure this fall, there is a need to address the potential for a significant number of law students being absent from classes due to a pandemic.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC), health officials and universities are recommending that schools not enforce attendance policies that would cause ill students to attend classes and, thereby, further spread the disease.

In light of this, the law school deems any absence due to suspected flu or fever symptoms excused. Specifically, if a law student has a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.78 degrees Celsius) or above, the law student should not come to class and should stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone. Absence due to a law student's illness that includes a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.78 degrees Celsius) or higher is considered excused and will not count toward the 10% absence policy.

In the event a law student becomes ill and misses class(es), email communication between the ill student and his or her professor will be essential to managing the situation and ensuring the

student stays apprised of material covered in class. In particular, ill law students should proactively communicate by email with their professors (and “cc” the professor’s faculty assistant on the email) at the earliest opportunity from the point a law student realizes he or she is ill and unable to attend class(es). This will ensure the professor and, in turn, his or her faculty assistant do not count said absences against the law student and is notified about the law student’s status.

Should an ill law student miss several classes in a row, the professor is strongly encouraged to electronically distribute class materials (e.g., class lecture notes) to the ill law student until further notice.

Professors will not require doctor’s excuses, as health officials have expressed concern that doing so would both add to a feared overtaxing of medical providers and deter students from staying home when ill.

Any absence due to a law student’s illness that includes a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.78 degrees Celsius) or higher will not count toward the law school’s 10% absence policy. Law students are responsible for communicating with their professors regarding any absences. This includes, when applicable, specifying that an absence in question is due to the law student’s temperature rising to or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.78 degrees Celsius).

A law student’s illness that does not include a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.78 degrees Celsius) or higher will count toward the 10% absence policy. A law student’s absence due to another person’s (e.g., family member, roommate) illness also counts toward the 10% absence policy.

Even with a modification to the attendance policy, law students are expected to adhere to the law school’s Honor Code and the University Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct at all times. This includes the expectation that law students act with integrity as it relates to reporting one’s absence(s) to professors. The Honor Code and University Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct are available via the Student Handbook.

This adjustment to the attendance policy applies to the fall 2009 semester only. This policy could be invoked again in the spring, if the pandemic danger continues.

For more information about the H1N1 virus and strategies for decreasing the spread of flu, please review guidelines and FAQs posted by the CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/qa.htm>) and IUPUI (<http://www.iupui.edu/~prepared/h1n1/?lp=5>).