

ITALY

- **What precautions are local governments taking to prevent the spread of H1N1, and what do they require of students who land on site?**

Starting in late October, Italy is expected to start a vaccination program for H1N1. "Vaccination will begin with people working in essential services and those in contact with the public," said epidemiologist Giovanni Rezza, head of the department for infectious diseases at Italy's Higher Institute of Health (ISS). The aim, Rezza said, was to vaccinate between 30-40 percent of the population. "This is also in consideration of the indirect effect, which is sufficient to keep the virus from spreading rapidly through the population," he added. It is not certain if this vaccination will be available to the wider public and specifically to foreigners. As more information becomes available, our Resident Directors in Italy will keep students informed about this possibility.

For a detailed explanation of [Italy's National Plan for Preparedness and Response to an Influenza Pandemic](#) please see the attached document distributed by the Repubblica Italiana - Ministero del Lavoro, della Salute e delle Politiche Sociali – www.ministerosalute.it.

At this point, there are no requirements for travelers (or students) entering Italy.

- **How will CET respond if an outbreak that involves our students takes place at our host campuses?**

In Florence, Siena and Catania, CET students, staff and faculty are the main people who frequent the CET Center. During orientation, we will explain to students, staff and faculty the importance of washing their hands frequently and taking general sanitary precautions and specifically visiting a doctor as soon as they feel any flu-like symptoms. Hospitals in Florence, Siena and Catania are equipped and prepared to care for people who test positive for the virus.

Those infected with the virus will be directed to the nearest hospital and not allowed to attend class or enter the CET facility until they are cleared by medical personnel as "not contagious" (typically, one week later). If a CET student is infected, we will require them to quarantine themselves and move to either a hospital or hotel (at their own expense) to recover. In the mean time, the student's apartment will be professionally cleaned to help reduce the possibility of the illness spreading to other students. Note that if a student is infected with H1N1 and not allowed to attend class, their absences will be excused.

- **How we intend to communicate with students, schools, and parents if groups of our students are quarantined?**

Our on-site staff will report any suspected H1N1 cases to the CET DC office immediately. If any student/staff/faculty is diagnosed with H1N1 (if not required and orchestrated by the local government), we will require them to quarantine themselves and the DC office staff will contact all home institutions of all students participating on the program to inform them of the outbreak and explain next steps. We will also send an email to all program students and their emergency contacts (usually parents) updating them on the situation.

When applicable, we will provide contact numbers and addresses of quarantine facilities to students' parents and home institutions. We will do our best to insure students have the ability to contact parents and CET staff when under quarantine. In addition, we will encourage all students on the program to contact their emergency contacts (usually parents) directly to address any concerns.