The flu season is approaching, and Rice’s Crisis Management Team (CMT) has a plan in place that will help the university respond to and minimize the impact of a flu outbreak. If an outbreak occurs, the university’s priorities in responding to such an event will be as follows:

1. Ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff.
2. Preserve and protect ongoing research and our facilities and university assets.
3. Resume teaching and educating our students as soon as possible.

In order to make the most informed decisions, the CMT will use recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Texas State Department of State Health Services to help guide its response plans.

Fight the Flu: On Campus
- Rice University has installed 120 alcohol-based hand sanitizers in various buildings throughout campus.
- The Rice housekeeping staff is giving extra attention to wiping door handles, elevator buttons and other high-contact surfaces.
- Rice University will continue to promote and remind the community of effective preventive actions.

Fight the Flu: One Individual at a Time
- Get the flu vaccine when available.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and throw the tissue in the trash immediately after use.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth.
- Stay home or away from others when you’re sick.

Flu-like Symptoms
A fever of 100°F or higher AND cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, unusual fatigue, diarrhea or vomiting.

If You Have Flu-like Symptoms
- See a doctor. Students should contact Student Health Services; faculty and staff should contact their primary care physician.
- Avoid contact with others. You should stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Before returning to work, your fever should be gone without the use of fever-reducing medicine.)
- Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor recommends them. Antiviral drugs may prevent serious flu complications for people at high risk (young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions, and people 65 and older).

If Rice Closes
Students, faculty and staff need to stay informed about the university’s status and requirements for resuming operations. This information will be provided through several outlets, including TV, radio, text messages, e-mail and the Rice University Emergency Information Web site or by calling the Rice University automated telephone line at 713-348-8888.

If you receive media inquiries related to a flu outbreak, please direct them to Rice’s Director of News and Media Relations B.J. Almond at 713-348-6770 or balmond@rice.edu.

For more information on emergency preparedness or to access educational materials and basic disaster-kit checklists based on FEMA’s in-depth citizen preparedness guide, please visit the Rice University Emergency Information Web site at www.rice.edu/emergency.