Flu Season is here

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), flu activity is increasing in the United States. For the week ending January 1, 2011, eight states including Georgia reported widespread influenza activity. The best way to prevent the flu is to be immune to the virus by getting vaccinated against the flu. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older get vaccinated against the flu each year.

Flu shots are available from the University Health Center for both students and staff. For more information about flu shots from the University Health Center go to www.uhs.uga.edu/healthtopics/influenza.html or call 706-542-5575. Flu shots may also be obtained in your neighborhood. To find a location close to you, go to www.flu.gov/whereyoulive/index.html.

To help prevent getting the flu, remember to wash your hands frequently and cover your cough and sneezes with your sleeve. If you are sick, stay home.

No one wants to disrupt their routine with illness. Take some preventative measures to keep yourself healthy.

♦ Get vaccinated against the flu
♦ Wash your hands frequently
♦ Cover your coughs and sneezes with your sleeve
♦ Stay home if you are sick

UGA Severe Weather Preparedness

Georgia is vulnerable to a range of severe and potentially life-threatening weather, including tornadoes. Over the past 50 years, a total of 1,220 tornadoes were reported in Georgia. While tornadoes have occurred in every month of the year in Georgia, the months of March through May are the most active period of tornadic activity in the state.

The upcoming Statewide Severe Weather Drill, scheduled for February 9, 2011, is conducted on an annual basis by the National Weather Service, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and the Georgia Office of Homeland Security. Participation in the drill is encouraged by the Governor and other emergency management officials. In the event or threat of actual severe weather on Wednesday, February 9th, the drill will be postponed until Friday, February 11th.

The UGA community is encouraged to either physically shelter in their pre-designated sheltering areas or to reflect upon what actions they would take should a real severe weather event occur on campus. UGA’s Office of Security & Emergency Preparedness encourages the University community to be prepared for severe weather events.
to become familiar with the following tips as part of their individual preparedness:

A **tornado watch** is issued by the National Weather Service when tornadoes are possible in the area.

A **tornado warning** is issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar in the area.

**Sheltering during a storm if inside a building**

- Go to the basement or to an inside hallway at the lowest level of the building.
- Take or secure your personal belongings if time permits (laptops, purses, book bags, etc.).
- Secure your work computer if time permits (logoff and shut down to minimize damage and potential loss of data).
- Avoid places with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, theater style rooms, cafeterias, large hallways, or gymnasiums.
- Stay away from exterior windows and doors as well as display cases, shelving, or wall mounted audio visual equipment that could collapse on top of you.
- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture (if available) such as a workbench, heavy table, or desk, and hold on to it.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

**Sheltering during a storm if outdoors, in a vehicle, or on a campus bus**

- Get inside a building if possible.
- Follow the instructions of your bus driver if you are riding Campus Transit or a city bus.
- Lie in a ditch, low-lying area, or crouch near a strong building if shelter is not available or if there is no time to get indoors.
- Be aware for the potential of flash flooding.
- Use your arms to protect to your head and neck.

Please contact OSEP should you need additional instructions or locations of safe areas within your building. Additional severe weather tips are posted on OSEP’s Web site [www.osep.uga.edu](http://www.osep.uga.edu)

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**Test of the UGA ALERT System**

**During the Statewide Severe Weather Drill**

[UGA Alert](http://www.ugaalert.uga.edu)

A **TEST** of UGA’s emergency mass notification system, UGA Alert, is planned for February 9, 2011 in conjunction with the Statewide Severe Weather Drill. After the TEST, a short survey will be posted on OSEP’s Website at [www.osep.uga.edu](http://www.osep.uga.edu). UGA Alert users are encouraged to participate in this short survey. Feedback from this survey will provide valuable information to help improve future drills and emergency alerts.

UGA Alert is used to send emergency messages to the UGA campus community when immediate action is needed due to life threatening campus-wide emergencies.

**Prior to the TEST**, users are encouraged to update their contact information at [www.ugaalert.uga.edu](http://www.ugaalert.uga.edu).

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**UGA CERT**

Under the direction of the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness (OSEP) and the Athens-Clarke Co. Fire and Emergency Services, the University of Georgia established a Community Emergency Response Team (UGA CERT) in the fall of 2008. All training has been conducted in accordance with the

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standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Community Emergency Response Teams.

Faculty, staff and students make up the voluntary UGA CERT team. This program is voluntary and UGA employees must obtain approval from their supervisors prior to participating in the program. Employees are not paid extra nor do they accrue flex hours by participating in the program.

The goal of UGA CERT is to do the most good for the most number of people. UGA CERT volunteers are not intended to replace professional emergency responders, nor constitute the university’s primary emergency response capability. Rather, they serve as an important supplement to the University’s emergency plan and complement and enhance first-response capability. During the eight week program, students will receive training on Emergency Preparedness, CERT Organization, Disaster Medical, Fire Suppression, Search and Rescue, Terrorism, Disaster Psychology and will participate in a final exercise that will bring all the training together.

The 9th UGA CERT Class will begin on February 22, 2011 and run until April 19, 2011. There will not be a meeting the week of spring break. The classes will meet on Tuesday afternoons from 2:30-5:00. Please register for the class on the OSEP home page. If you have any questions about the class please contact Pete Golden, Emergency Operations Coordinator, at 706-542-7578 or via email pgolden@uga.edu.

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**2010 OSEP**

**“A Reflection!”**

**May 2010**

**Campus-Wide Flu Campaign**

The University of Georgia (UGA) launched a campus-wide flu awareness campaign in August 2009, which continued until May 2010, as a proactive effort to make sure the entire campus is doing their part to promote a healthy environment.

The Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness (OSEP) worked along with various departments at the University - including the UGA Health Center, University Housing, Human Resources, the College of Pharmacy and the Office of Public Affairs - to create a consistent “one message” approach in promoting flu awareness. For more information, visit www.uhs.uga.edu/.

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**May 2010**

**UGA CERT Participated in the 2010 Stadion Athens Golf Classic**

Members of the UGA CERT team volunteered to staff the first aid tent during the Stadion Athens Classic held at the UGA Golf Course from April 26 to May 2, 2010. During the week over 20 different UGA CERT members worked to provide basic first aid to patrons, workers and golfers from 7:30 am until approximately 7:00 pm each evening. UGA CERT members worked 2-4 hour shifts, depending on their schedules, with many working more than one day.

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Fortunately, there were no major medical issues to report other than the occasional cuts, blisters and bug bites to handle. OSEP and UGA CERT members are looking forward to helping with the 2011 Stadion Athens Classic.

**September 2010**

**National Preparedness Month**

This was the sixth year that the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness (OSEP) participated in National Preparedness Month as a coalition member. This year's theme was "ARE YOU READY?". Posters, bus cards, and table cards reflecting this theme could be seen around campus to encourage personal preparedness in emergencies.

On September 9th, OSEP hosted several events and activities that focused attention on steps that students, faculty and staff can take to better prepare for emergencies. These events included a lecture on “Active Shooter: School Shootings to Terrorism,” an Emergency Preparedness Fair, and a Public Safety Vehicle Display.

Past issues of the Readiness Rules Bulletins are available from the News Link on OSEP’s homepage www.osep.uga.edu. If you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe to this bulletin, please visit: http://listserv.uga.edu/archives/osep-news-l.html