



UNIVERSITY OF
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

at Cheltenham and Gloucester

STUDENT SERVICES FLU BUDDY SCHEME

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As you are no doubt aware, the World Health Organisation pandemic flu status has moved to level six, meaning that swine flu is officially a world-wide pandemic. This does not mean that the virus has increased in severity, it just means that it is expected to affect a certain percentage of the population. It is never too early to plan ahead for the possibility of being unwell, and as such we would ask that you read this brief information and to then make your choice of flu buddy.

Should a student fall ill with flu-like symptoms, it is likely that they will feel too ill to look after themselves as well as they may like.

As such the university recommends that all students identify some 'flu buddies' who they can rely on should they fall ill.

Flu buddies can be expected to carry out a number of important tasks for a friend who has fallen ill, such as:

- **ensure that they have sought appropriate medical assistance and advice**
- **collect any drugs or medicine prescribed by the GP or hospital on their behalf**
- **ensure that any family are informed**
- **ensure that the university is informed**
- **stock up on food, drink and everyday necessities**
- **stock up on pain relief (paracetamol etc).**

Should pandemic flu considerably affect the university, then the flu buddy scheme will significantly help students to recover quicker from the illness and will build a strong sense of community care.

It is hoped that all students will find flu buddies for themselves and act as a flu buddy for others.

The university will aim to keep students and staff updated through its website:

<http://resources.glos.ac.uk/staff/news/swineflu.cfm>