

## **Sweet Briar College Communicable Disease/Pandemic Plan**

Updated: August 2020

### **I. Introduction**

Situations involving a pandemic or other community health concern often occur without warning and evolve quickly. This document provides an outline for various levels of action and response. Please note that in the event of a pandemic or outbreak of a communicable disease, in addition to the plan below, the College may enact emergency protocols in conjunction with, or independent of federal, state or local guidance. Sweet Briar College may enact any emergency protocol that its administration believes is in the best interest of community safety and all members of our community are expected to adhere to protocols as they are enacted by the college, even if such protocols are not specifically outlined in this policy.

### **II. Typical Informant**

Student, Public Health Department, Centra Health Amherst, Lynchburg General Hospital ER

### **III. Principal Point Persons**

#### **1. Lead Personnel**

- Director of Campus Safety, Brian Marker (chair)
- Dean of Students, Marcia Thom-Kaley
- Director of Human Resources, Nickcole Maynard-Errami
- Director of Technology Services, Hooshang Foroudastan
- President of the College, Meredith Woo
- Representative of local health department
- Senior Director of Communications, Amy Ostroth
- Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, Teresa Garrett
- Vice President of Alumnae Affairs and Development, Mary Pope Maybank Hutson '83
- Vice President of Enrollment Management, Aaron Basko
- Vice President for Finance, Operations and Auxiliary Enterprises, Luther Griffith

### **IV. Action Plan**

#### **A. Planning, Communication and Surveillance**

1. Communicate planning and general public health information to the College community.
2. Coordinate with the local health department for the collection of specimens, laboratory testing, immunization, and treatment of victims.
3. Contact Centra Amherst Health Services or other contracted medical provider to the College community.
4. Monitor World Health Organization (WHO), Center for Disease Control (CDC) and state health agencies for information regarding influenza and/or other activity.
  - Haley Evans, district epidemiologist, State of Virginia Department of Health

#### **B. Lead Personnel will coordinate tasks outline below**

1. Pandemic flu or other outbreak identified
  - Monitor WHO, CDC and local health agencies for information.
  - Contact Centra (Amherst) Health or other contracted medical provider .
  - Implement travel restrictions recommended by CDC, U.S. Department of State and/or Virginia Department of Health.

- Communicate specific College and public health information to the College community.
2. Pandemic flu or other outbreak present in Virginia
    - Monitor WHO, CDC, state and local health agencies for information regarding influenza and/or other activity.
    - Monitor for flu activity and severity in the College community.
    - Participate in state and local agency efforts to distribute national supply of vaccine, antiviral medication for prophylaxis and treatment.
    - Consider limitation and/or suspension of College operations.
    - Communicate disease recognition and management, personal protection, social distancing, quarantine and isolation information to the College community.
  3. Pandemic flu or other outbreak present at sweet briar college or in the local community
    - Monitor WHO, CDC, state and local health agencies for information regarding influenza and/or other activity.
    - Monitor for flu activity and severity in the College community.
    - Communicate disease recognition and management, personal protection, social distancing, quarantine and isolation information to the College community.
    - Coordinate with the local health department for the collection of specimens, laboratory testing, immunization and treatment of victims.
    - Limit or suspend College operations and communicate to College and external community.
    - Implement cohort relocation (quarantine) and isolation measures for those exposed/ill with influenza or other condition.
      - Patteson House will be utilized; should there be students living in Patteson House, they will be relocated
    - Partner with Centra Health and/or other medical provider to the College to provide health care and essential services for those who remain on campus.
  4. Recovery
    - Monitor WHO, CDC, state and local health agencies for information regarding influenza or other conditions.
    - Prepare for possible further waves of influenza or other condition activity and return to step 2.
    - Communicate decision to partially or fully resume College operations and at what level.
    - Communicate specific College and public health information to the College community.

#### **V. Hospitals and Medical Resources**

A. Centra Amherst Health – Contact: Dr. John Paul Jones, Medical Director – (434) 946-9565

B. Lynchburg General Hospital Emergency Room (Centra Health) 434-200-3000

C. Health Department: Haley Evans, District Epidemiologist, Virginia Department of Health 434-477 5917/C: 434-841-5319

D. Area Colleges:

- CVCC – Department of Campus Police 434-832-7700
- Hampden-Sydney College – Student Health Services 434-223-6167

- Liberty University – Health Center 434-338-7774
- Longwood University – University Health Center 434-395-2400
- University of Lynchburg – Health Center 434-544-8357
- Randolph College – Health Center 434-947-8130
- University of Virginia – Department of Student Health 434-942-5362
- Virginia Military Institute – Infirmary 540-464-7218
- Washington and Lee University – Student Health Center 540-458-8401

E. Other Resources

- Blue Ridge Emergency Medical Services 434-947-5934
- Amherst County Emergency Medical Services 434-946-9300

**VI. Emergency Response Planning Statement**

Sweet Briar College annually updates its plans for a wide variety of potential disasters. In light of the damage that natural disasters have caused in this country in recent years, as well as international concern about the potential for a pandemic outbreak of avian flu, it is important that the College have comprehensive plans in place that might include closing the campus entirely for a period of time.

Should we be faced with such an eventuality, the College would have little time to debate the matter, especially in the case of a pandemic. After consulting with governmental health agencies and our local health officials, we could conceivably enter immediately into a period of recess. Should that be necessary, we believe a carefully orchestrated response, as outlined, will help protect your student and others in the community. As such, we share our emergency planning information with you annually so that our entire community can be prepared.

**If a determination is made to close the College, please be aware of the following:**

- A. The College will send a recess notice to students via e-mail, the LiveSafe emergency notification system and through posted information on the website. It is each student's responsibility to monitor these information sources regularly.
- B. At the same time, the College will send email notification to parent and guardians for whom we have a current email address.
- C. Students should be prepared to depart campus immediately and should only pack belongings that can be carried in a vehicle. The College will secure student residence areas.
- D. The College will recommend that students return directly home.
- E. If a student is unable to travel home, she should contact the Office of Student Life (434-381-6134) for help or advice.
- F. To aid in this process, the College recommends that families discuss reasonable options during each semester break and develop a plan.
- G. During a recess, important information will be available via email, the College's homepage ([www.sbc.edu](http://www.sbc.edu)) or by calling 434-381-6400.