Due to the nature of college life, emergency actions/responses regarding infectious/communicable disease rely on prevention and identification/containment/control strategies.

**Prevention**

All college personnel should consider the following prevention **rules of thumb**:

- Basic hygiene measures, like frequent hand washing or use of an alcohol based hand gel, especially after using the restroom or changing diapers, should be practiced at all times.

- If you are sick, do not go to work or class, and minimize your contact with others. Seek appropriate medical intervention early on to protect yourself and others around you.

- If you exhibit signs of respiratory infection, practice cough etiquette. This means covering your mouth/nose when coughing or sneezing with your sleeve or a tissue, and using tissues to contain respiratory secretions (followed by immediate disposal of the tissue in a wastebasket and hand washing).

**Identification/Containment/Control**

1. Employees who are sick should stay away from work and seek diagnosis/treatment through their medical health care provider. Employees should keep their supervisor aware of their status.

2. Students who are sick should report their conditions to their advisor and/or faculty and seek diagnosis/evaluation by a medical health care provider. Students are encouraged to maintain communication with the college through faculty members, their advisor, or the Executive Dean of Student Services’ office.

3. Outbreaks of acutely infectious/communicable diseases will be assessed by the Cochise County Health Department in coordination with the college’s Director of Risk Management. While specific actions/responses the college will take once such a disease has been identified tend to be disease-specific, three different containment/control strategies will be followed based on recommendation by the Cochise County Health Department:

   a. Actions involving sick/symptomatic persons include—diagnostic testing, treatment, isolation, ambulatory transportation to a local hospital, and disease reporting through public health authorities/channels.
b. Actions involving those who have been in contact with sick/symptomatic persons include—diagnostic testing, medical monitoring/counseling, and treatment/isolation/ambulatory transportation as needed.

c. Actions involving the greater college community, (those not in direct contact with sick/symptomatic persons) include—information sharing as to the nature of the disease outbreak and specific recommended preventative actions, medical monitoring/counseling, additional cleaning and disinfection of public spaces, and others as needed.

4. Outbreaks of infectious/communicable diseases, like Pandemic Influenza or Coronavirus (COVID-19), will principally be managed in accordance with local, state and federal health guidelines. This may result in the temporary suspension of all college events, functions, buildings and facilities as prudent in sustaining a healthy environment.

5. While it is highly unlikely that building evacuations (as traditionally defined) would occur following an outbreak of infectious/communicable diseases, it is critical for all employees and students to stay informed should an emergency unfold. College officials will disseminate critical information as it becomes available to safeguard the greater college community through a variety of communication venues, including the CC Alerts text and email system, portal announcements, website updates, etc.