Office of the Vice-President Academic & Provost

To: Members of Executive Council
   Chairs, Directors of Schools
   Academic Support Department Heads
   Executive Assistants
   Administrative Assistants
   Daily Bulletin

From: Amit Chakma, Vice-President Academic & Provost

Re: Swine Flu and Travel Restrictions

Date: May 21, 2009

The Region of Waterloo Public Health stated this week:

While the number of cases (H1N1 virus) continues to increase, both the federal and provincial governments are beginning to "ramp down" their response efforts. This is in keeping with our key message that our response efforts must be proportionate with the risk. Recent epidemiological information indicates the spectrum of illness of the H1N1 virus is similar to that of seasonal influenza. As such, the virus will continue to be detected and monitored through screening and surveillance efforts, but additional measures are not required at this time.

Therefore, as of today, I am withdrawing the direction that all university-related travel to Mexico be cancelled and the University will honour travel claims for University business.

Public health continues to advise that everyone continue to practice the safety precautions of washing hands frequently, staying home when ill and coughing into one's sleeve.

Thank you for your efforts to keep UW's campus and its people safe and healthy.