

**The Mexican Ambar: A solid Response for a  
World Health Emergency and International  
Education**

**The Impact of a Health Crisis in the  
Internationalization Process at  
Tecnológico de Monterrey**

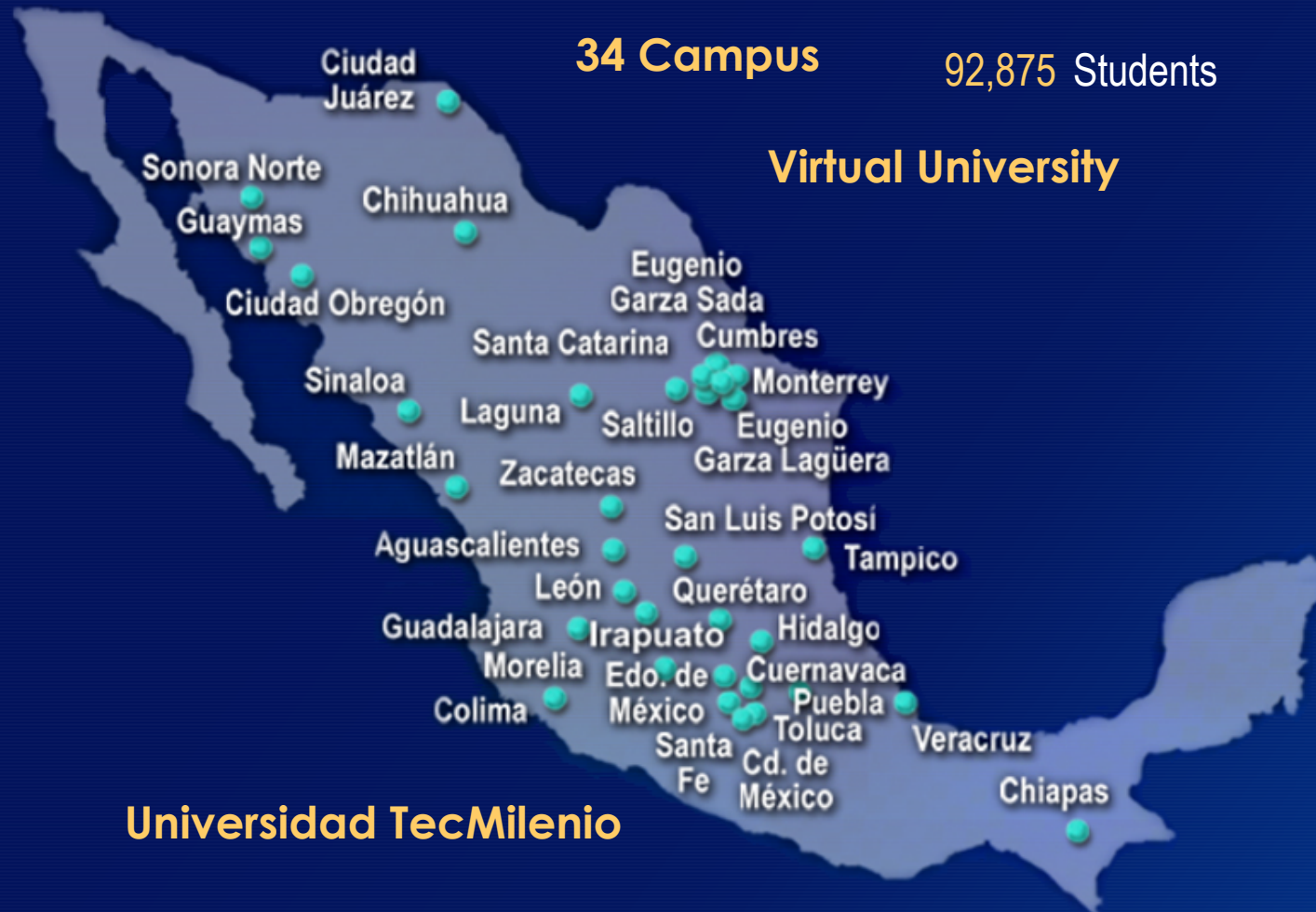
October 27, 2009

**34 Campus**

92,875 Students

**Virtual University**

**Universidad TecMilenio**



## 21 International Offices





## Reflections on the A H1N1 Influenza Outbreak

- On April 23 México city was paralyzed and 3 days later the whole country.
- Mexican authorities, once they identified the threat, acted responsibly and efficiently in notifying the international health agencies and the Mexican population to prevent the epidemic from mushrooming and began working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA (Larry Rohter, The New York Times, May 9, 2009)



## **Reflections on the A H1N1 Influenza Outbreak**

- Tecnologico de Monterrey offered the Mexican Government all the necessary human resources to provide advice and research for the new virus.
- The School of Biotechnology and Health in coordination with San Jose Hospital established a diagnosis center for AH1N1. In just a few days a lab was established.





## **Reflections on the A H1N1 Influenza Outbreak**

- Sanitary precautions were adopted:
  - Classes were suspended from April 27th to May 6th at all educational levels
  - Massive events were cancelled
  - The use of surgical masks was recommended
  - General recommendations were provided:
    - Refraining from greetings involving physical contact
    - Washing hands frequently
    - Using sanitary gel
    - Avoid touching objects belonging to others
    - 24-hour telephone hotlines for international students



## **Reflections on the A H1N1 Influenza Outbreak**

- When classes resumed, precaution measures were maximized to contain contagion:
  - In all entrances to Monterrey Campus there were doctors and medical students screening students for symptoms
  - Sanitary gel was provided in all entrances and in each classroom building
  - Elevators and classrooms were sanitized on a daily basis
  - Cafeterias sold food only in disposable dishes and with disposable flatware



## **Reflections on the A H1N1 Influenza Outbreak**

- Once cafeterias opened they had only one third of tables set of the maximum capacity and only two persons were allowed to sit per table





# **Reflections on the A H1N1 Influenza Outbreak**

## **International Students**

- Panic spread among the international students due to some universities asking them to go back, the concern of their parents which was increased with the media exaggeration of the situation
- The Center for International Students Services at Monterrey Campus worked long hours from April 27 to May 10 informing, advising and providing orientation to students



## **Reflections on the A H1N1 Influenza Outbreak**

- Flexible measures were taken by Tecnológico de Monterrey authorities regarding course work and classes:
  - International students that had to leave Mexico could:
    - Continue the course on-line
    - Get an average of the accumulated grades
    - Take the final exam on-line
    - The exam could be sent to the home university to be taken there
    - Another option was staying and go to classes and take the final exams face to face



## **Reflections on the A H1N1 Influenza Outbreak**

- 50% of the international students left Monterrey Campus to go back to their home countries
- A similar percentage of our Mexican students from other states also decided to leave Monterrey
- Most of the summer programs at Monterrey Campus were cancelled by partner universities



## Reflections on the A H1N1 Influenza Outbreak

- Missinterpretations:
  - It is not the Mexican Influenza as the media addressed it in the beginning. It began as a North American phenomenon and now it is a global challenge
  - It does not have anything to do with the consumption of pork meat
  - Regular influenza vaccine is not effective
  - WHO did not restrict travel or closing borders



## **Reflections on the A H1N1 Influenza Outbreak**

- Lessons learned
  - Mexico fast action gave other countries the warning they needed to screen for the new virus (The New York Times, Julio Frenk Minister of Health 2000-2006, April 30, 2009)
  - Constant monitoring, information and communication regarding the situation must be provided by the international offices to students and partner universities on a daily basis



## **Reflections on the A H1N1 Influenza Outbreak**

- International cooperation with partner universities and building of trust is paramount
- We must be aware that media oversizes the problem and leads to panic
- We, as Mexicans, learned to take care of our health, our partners and the community's health as well





## **Reflections on the A H1N1 Influenza Outbreak**

- Gary Rhodes, director of global education of Loyola Marymount University's Center for Global Education suggested the swine flu as a case study for future crisis. He added "Any time you have an incident..., whether it is this, or a bomb in London or Madrid or when the SARS was coming about, it gives you a set of issues and real examples of case studies to work through so that your staff are better prepared, as well as students" (Swine Flu and Students Flows, Elizabeth Redden, INSIDE Higher Education)



## **Reflections on the A H1N1 Influenza Outbreak**

- By May 27, 2009, 48 countries reported 13,398 cases