



Actions to Minimize Health Risks of H1N1 Flu

August 27, 2009

1. Using electronic communication media (e.g. email, online, Sakai), be prepared to alert students throughout the semester of any modifications to the syllabus or changes to the class schedule.
2. Please adjust your class attendance policy to ensure that students who are ill with influenza are not penalized for missing class. We do not want ill students in class spreading the virus. Students who become sick need to know that they have your permission to stay home and get better without incurring any penalty. Based on guidelines from the CDC, please do not require students to get a note from a health care provider. Given the possibility that many people may seek care or advice simultaneously, the CDC is advising that people seek care only if they have underlying risk factors or emergent symptoms.
3. Be attentive to your own health and encourage departmental planning to address illness among faculty and staff. Our hope is to minimize the cancellation of classes. Options include having colleagues cover classes, and, if comfortable and appropriate, using online activities, such as Sakai, podcasts, video conferencing through Skype, email, etc. to ensure delivery of course materials. For those of you needing remote library research assistance, you can contact the library via instant messaging.
4. While we want to be flexible and caring toward our students, we do not want to relax academic standards or expectations. Please think about alternative ways to effectively manage your course(s) and accomplish your learning goals under unpredictable circumstances.
5. Please support student learning in situations where students have had to miss class. This may include making class notes available and/or being flexible with makeup assignments and exams. Student learning must continue; we do not want students to be inappropriately assigned “incompletes” or feel compelled to drop classes because they were ill for a few days.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this serious matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office (874-4410 or 4408). It is an important time for our campus community to pull together in support of each other and our students and to ensure the integrity of our academic enterprise.