

**Novel H1N1 flu
Student Information
Fall 2009**

What measures can I take to protect myself and others from H1N1-related sickness?

[see student information handout]

If I miss class due to my (possible) infection with H1N1, will I be excused from class?

Any documentation regarding missing class because of illness must be provided by the student to the instructor in a timely manner. Instructors will make the decision regarding whether an absence is excused based on the information provided. Notification that a student has received treatment will not be construed as a “medical excuse.” Ultimately, the authority for deciding whether the documentation presented by the student justifies an excused absence rests with the instructor. All students are expected to abide by each instructor’s class attendance policy. Regardless of whether an absence is excused or unexcused, the student is responsible for making up all work that is missed.

Will my absence be excused because UK Policy tells me to stay home when I have a fever?

The Provost has asked faculty to be as flexible as possible because of the H1N1 pandemic. Your instructor will work with you – if you communicate with him or her – to ensure that you are not unduly penalized by your absence. It is important to understand that the University’s excused absence policy described in the Student Code of Conduct has not changed (see section 5.2.4.2 on the website at <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>).

Can I drop a class if I get too far behind due to my absences?

If you feel you are in this situation, please contact your academic dean’s office as soon as possible.

If I have to drop a class but I have an academic scholarship that stipulates I must complete at least twelve hours of course work each semester, what should I do?

If you feel you are in this situation, please contact the Scholarship Office (room 100H Funkhouser Building; 257-4198) as soon as possible.

Can I wear a disposable mask in class?

If others are coughing and sneezing, wearing a disposable mask in class is an option for you.

Can someone else report my illness if I am unable to?

It is your responsibility to report your illness. Ask your instructor if email is an acceptable form of communication to share information about class absence due to illness.

Will this affect my ability to ask for a class drop or a medical withdrawal?

The dean has alerted faculty to expect a greater than average absence rate during the eight-week predicted surge of H1N1. Most students who experience H1N1 have a moderate experience with flu like symptoms and are able to return to classes 24 hours after fever is gone. As a first step once you are feeling better, communicate with your faculty about how you will make up any missed assignments. If your symptoms do not decrease in severity, make an appointment with a medical provider. For a withdrawal after midterm for medical reasons, you will need to submit to the dean documentation from a health provider.

What happens if my faculty member is too ill to teach?

Typically, your class schedule will continue. Faculty who teach large enrollment classes have been asked to identify fellow faculty who would step in for them and teach their classes during periods of instructor illness.