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PRESS RELEASE

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UMass rolls up sleeves for flu vaccine; more available

AMHERST, Mass – More than 2,500 people on the UMass Amherst campus are better protected against seasonal flu, following a series of vaccination clinics hosted by University Health Services (UHS). But, it's not too late for those who've put off receiving this important protection.

"In our area, flu typically peaks in late winter to early spring," said UHS public health nurse Ann Becker, R.N., who coordinates the annual flu clinics. "There's still plenty of time to be vaccinated."

There's also plenty of vaccine this year; the campus health center has as many as 500 doses available to students, faculty and staff. "When shortages exist, priority is given to high-risk groups," Becker said. "This year, anyone who wants to avoid getting the flu can be immunized." She also noted that many health insurance plans, including the campus-sponsored Student Health Insurance Plan, cover the \$25 cost for the shot.

While there are no additional flu clinics planned, members of the campus community can call UHS for an appointment to be vaccinated, or ask their provider for the vaccine during an existing appointment.

UHS, UMass Amherst's campus health center, serves students, faculty and staff. The center offers comprehensive medical and mental health care, referral and education services, with a special focus on the health needs and concerns of students. For more information, visit www.umass.edu/uhs or call (413) 577-5000.