

October 21, 2009

Dear Students:

In order to maintain a healthy campus during this challenging flu season, we are urging you to take care of yourself, and to protect other members of the campus community by **staying home if you are sick.**

You may be concerned about how missing class may affect your ability to keep up with course requirements. The provost has advised all faculty members to modify their attendance policies to help students who are unable to attend class due to illness. The provost has also informed faculty members that they should not require students to provide a note from a health care provider explaining absence from class or confirming recovery. You should, however, let your faculty know why you are missing class.

So please, if you are ill, **stay home and take care of yourself.** Your faculty members and department chairs will be available to help you get back on track with your academic work once you are well, fever-free, and have returned to classes.

On behalf of all UMass Amherst students, faculty, and staff, we thank you for helping to limit everyone's exposure to the flu.

Dr. Jean Kim
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life