



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA Interdepartmental Correspondence

To: All Students **From:** Gerry Kendal, Vice-Provost and University Registrar

Re: Temporary Suspension of Requirements for Medical Documentation for Student Absences **Date:** 26 October 2009

As a result of the existence of H1N1 pandemic influenza in the community, Dr Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President Academic has approved that effective immediately, supporting medical documentation (i.e., a doctor's note) is not required for student absences due to Influenza Like Illness (ILI).

It is important that students regularly consult the University's H1N1 website (www.h1n1.ualberta.ca) for the most current information available, including signs and symptoms of influenza and what you should do in the event that you find yourself ill.

Please see Calendar section 23.4(3) regarding **Missed Term Work** and 23.5.6 regarding **Absence from Exams** for information on absences. This temporary relief from providing medical documentation only applies in the case of absences due to flu-like symptoms.

In this and any flu season, it is important to take responsibility for your own health. Alberta Health and Wellness points out that the influenza virus is contagious and is spread person to person via close contact. The virus also rests on hard surfaces such as counters and doorknobs and can spread when people touch contaminated surfaces and then unknowingly transfer the virus to their eyes, nose or mouth. Practicing good preventive hygiene (e.g., wash your hands and cover your cough) and following the self-care practices as outlined by Alberta Health and Wellness will greatly assist in minimizing the chance of infection.

This temporary action is being taken at this time in order to help protect the health of students and the larger university community as a whole. You will receive a further communications once normal practices resume. Wishing you a healthy academic year!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gerry Kendal'.