

October 9, 2009

Dear UVU Faculty Member:

We are off to great start to another academic year. Enrollments are up and opportunities for students have never been more rich and varied. In order to promote the best possible environment for teaching and learning at UVU, we are including you in our plans to help prevent the spread of the flu, or any contagious disease, this year.

You are likely aware that health experts are predicting a continuation of the H1N1 influenza virus. Along with that, we will be experiencing the typical flu season. Because the flu can be spread so easily from one person to another, we are actively planning to prevent this from happening at UVU to the extent reasonably possible.

UVU's Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee is working closely with Utah's state and county health departments to monitor flu conditions and is creating an emergency preparedness plan to provide for the campus community. That plan will be made available as it is finalized, within the next several weeks.

For now, we would like all faculty members to be aware of the following in order to maintain a healthy campus learning environment:

- Encourage your students to obtain the e-mail addresses and phone numbers of at least a few other students in every class who could share notes and information if they become ill and cannot attend class.
- Inform yourself of the signs and symptoms of the flu. Symptoms of the flu include fever *and* cough or sore throat. In addition, symptoms of the flu can include runny nose, body aches, headache, tiredness, diarrhea or vomiting.
- Inform students they should stay home for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have a fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater) or signs of a fever (without the use of medications to reduce fever), since their attendance will risk further spread of a serious virus.
- Assure students you will discuss with them ways you can submit work and make up any missed work without attending class.
- If a student comes to class exhibiting signs and symptoms of the flu, inform them they are not to attend classes when ill and ask them to return home immediately. If they are unwilling to act on your request, you may call Campus Police for assistance.

- Even if you do not usually take attendance in your classes, please begin to do so in order to track any pattern of illness that might emerge. If you begin to see that you are seeing 15-20% absenteeism in a class, please report that to Student Health Services.

For more information about the flu, please visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov), or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636). To view UVU's Swine Flu Precautions page please visit <http://www.uvu.edu/studenthealth/swineflu.html>

UVU is committed to sustaining academic continuity, quality, and degree progress to the fullest extent possible within the scope of its primary commitment to the preservation of human life and well-being. The Academic Affairs group is exploring ways to provide instruction and services for students in alternative ways, including the use of the internet and other technologies. As part of this, the Faculty Center will be conducting a survey of the faculty to determine the extent to which faculty have access to a computer and the internet at home. We already have data from an IR student survey that gives us a sense of students' access to a computer and internet in their places of residence.

Thank you for the great work you do with and for our students, and for doing all that you can to stay healthy yourself and help students understand how they can reduce the spread of any illnesses.

Best regards,

Elizabeth Hitch  
Vice President for Academic Affairs