



University of Pittsburgh
Student Health Service

November 3, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

Student Health Service will not provide “school excuses” for patients with suspected H1N1 Flu. Instead, we are following the guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and have implemented a 24 hour H1N1 Hotline so that students can be given self-care instructions, self isolate, and reduce the spread of illness.

In response to the threat of H1N1 on campus, a plan was enacted here at the University of Pittsburgh entitled, “**Pitt’s H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) Plan-Fall Semester, 2009.**” Here is an excerpt which specifically addresses class absences and school excuses:

“The Provost’s Office will contact professors and instructors with suggestions for preparing for student absences by planning make-up assignments or putting lesson materials online. Because most students with flu-like symptoms will not be seen by a doctor, *medical excuses for class absences of typical duration will not be required.*”

The nurse working the H1N1 Hotline will only refer students to Student Health Service if they have a chronic medical condition. Otherwise, patients will be told to “self-isolate, not go to classes, not go out in public or be around other people...etc.”

For further information (or to read the above information online) please consult the University of Pittsburgh’s H1N1 website: <http://www.pitt.edu/swine-flu/>.

Please follow this plan and make allowances for student absences during this situation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wettick, MD
Medical Director, Student Health Service