




## MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** October 5, 2009

**To:** Academic Community

**From:** Kent MacDonald, Vice President Academic 

**Subject:** **H1N1 – Doctor’s Notes**

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With the beginning of the flu and cold season upon us, students are starting to miss classes and some Algonquin faculty have implemented a long-held practice to request that students provide a doctor’s note confirming a verifiable illness or other health issue.

We have been advised that our Health Services Department is receiving a growing number of requests from students who are seeking a doctor’s note for missed classes. We understand that Health Services, and other medical clinics, are trying to manage this increased pressure as they prepare for the anticipated second wave of H1N1 infections expected this fall.

I have had the opportunity to consult a variety of faculty and academic staff in order to best understand the implications of ceasing the practice of asking for doctor’s notes. The outcome of this consultation has been clear and as a result, faculty are now advised not to request a doctor’s note when a student misses a class, lab, or other learning activity. As always, faculty retain the responsibility and right to manage their classes in a way that ensures students demonstrate the learning outcomes of each respective course.

This change will help to ensure that our medical team is able to dedicate their time to treat health issues, while ensuring sick students remain at home to recuperate. Your colleagues in The Centre for Organizational Learning have posted a ‘tip sheet’ with suggestions for how you can support students who are able to stay connected with peers and accomplish some or most of the course work and assessments while away from class. These good teaching practices can be found at:

<http://www.algonquincollege.com/employee-pd/academicContinuity.html>

As stated in previous College correspondence, Algonquin continues to plan for the H1N1 virus. You are encouraged to read the latest campus information related to H1N1 on the College Pandemic Website at:

<http://www.algonquincollege.com/H1N1>.

I appreciate your flexibility and understanding during these unique times and thank you for your commitment to your students’ success.