

Due to concerns about the spread of the H1N1 flu in the community, students are not required in Fall 2009 to obtain a physician's note in order to request academic accommodation due to absence because of flu-like symptoms. In response to requests from faculty, advisors and students, an electronic method of declaration has been developed by the University to provide an alternate to the established practice of using physicians' notes to confirm absences due to the flu.

Students are requested to enter the secure "Flu Declaration Web Site" by their secure Novell login and password and to identify the days they have been unable to fulfill academic requirements due to flu-like illness. When a flu declaration form is submitted, an automatic confirmation email will be generated to the student's official Laurier email. Students are now required, when requested to do so by their instructors, to present this email confirmation in lieu of a physician's note. Instructors who will now require the email confirmation in lieu of a physician's note should inform their students of this at the earliest opportunity.

Students must complete the form within 24 hours of their return to class if they are requesting academic accommodation for missed course work during the Fall 2009 term. Students who have missed academic requirements because of the flu prior to 13 October 2009 are requested to make a declaration by 16 October 2009.

Information on the site will also be used to identify patterns and incidences of flu-like illnesses in students and to track occurrences of the flu in residence. These data will be used only in summary form (no personal information attached) in response to requests from public health regarding student absenteeism due to the flu. A privacy statement is included on the web page.

A replica of the web form is included in the attached document. Please note, this form parallels the e-form being used at universities across the province for similar declaration and flu incidence patterns.

The link to the form can be found at: <https://www.wlu.ca/h1n1/login.php>

Students with questions about the requirement for a completed declaration form for particular courses should contact their instructors directly. Instructors with questions about use of the form should contact their dean, associate dean or departmental chair as applicable.

Sincerely,

Deb MacLatchy  
Vice-President Academic