

Dear students,

This is the first in a series of updates regarding the response of John Abbott College to the H1N1 virus.

The academic administration and other services of the College are currently in the process of planning for, and monitoring, the possible outbreak of the H1N1 virus. **Our first priority is to protect the health of John Abbott students, employees and their families.** At the same time we will be taking all reasonable steps to make certain that the educational activities of the College continue as usual and that students not be penalized as a result of illness.

The first principle of our response to a possible pandemic is to ask that students who show signs of H1N1 virus infection **NOT** come to the College. Staying home will allow you to rest and focus on recovery as well as protect other students and employees from a rapidly spreading disease.

You can find guidelines as to when you should stay home at:

<http://www.pandemiequebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/news/news.shtml>

(Please refer to the decision making chart).

We have asked our faculty members to make every effort to accommodate students who miss class, exams, labs or *stages* because of illness. Faculty members have been encouraged to be flexible during this time regarding attendance policies, make-up exams and assignments. At the same time, it is very important that those students who are absent because of the flu or flu-like symptoms be responsible and follow these procedures:

1. **STAY HOME** – No work, no play, no school!
2. Send an email to the College at reporting.flu@johnabbott.qc.ca . Students should contact the College each day of their absence with flu-like symptoms. This information will enable us to monitor the number of cases and to look for possible patterns of infection.
3. Contact each of your teachers by email or MIO on the first day of absence to learn about possible assignments from home or other class information.
4. Contact the teachers upon your return to clarify expectations for each missed class.

Lastly, the role of the Health and Wellness Centre related to H1N1 is that of education and information, including prevention, how to look after oneself when ill, and when to seek medical attention. The Centre is not equipped to care for ill students. If you are sick, you are not required to visit the nurses in the Centre and should go directly home.

You will be receiving further updates as more specific information becomes available.