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# Health officials urge flexibility by employers

UNITY — The Greater Sullivan County Public Health Network encourages employers to be as flexible as they can this flu season, recognizing the importance of letting a sick employee fully recover before returning to work.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Community Public Health Development Section continue to send a strong message reminding folks to stay home when they are sick, for at least 24 hours after all symptoms and fever are gone.

This is especially of concern

for food service workers and in services that interact with the public directly, to avoid a rapid spread of the H1N1 flu and other viruses. The DHHS is already seeing a change in workplace policies throughout the U.S. in accommodation of this need, as some employers are getting more creative in their use of flex time and making accommodations for staff to work from home.

While public health officials realize that employers' needs may get harder to fulfill while employees are out sick, officials stress that it is far better to let them stay home, than to have contagious workers interacting

with coworkers and the public, further spreading a potentially serious virus.

For more information about staying safe and healthy this flu season, or with questions about H1N1 flu, contact the New Hampshire State 2-1-1 hotline, or view information on [HYPERLINK "http://www.nh.gov"](http://www.nh.gov) [www.nh.gov](http://www.nh.gov), or [HYPERLINK "http://www.flu.gov"](http://www.flu.gov) [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) or through your Public Health Network at [HYPERLINK "http://www.sullivan-countynh.gov/publichealth"](http://www.sullivan-countynh.gov/publichealth) [www.sullivan-countynh.gov/publichealth](http://www.sullivan-countynh.gov/publichealth).