

# Instructor Response to Ill Student

October 27, 2020



This document has been prepared in order to assist instructors who may deal with a situation involving a student who may fall ill while on campus. Further COVID-19 resources for faculty & staff are available and updated regularly on the [COVID-19 tab](#) on the HSW Toolbox SharePoint site.

Although it is difficult to plan for all situations, the following scenarios are presented in order to assist instructors in the event they are required to respond to an illness on campus:

## Student Becomes Ill While in Class

At the outset, all should be mindful that the risk of exposure in a classroom setting has been mitigated by, but not limited to, such measures as screening, cleaning/disinfection protocols, physical distancing measures and the requirement to wear a mask or face covering. That said, should a student report that they are feeling unwell with new COVID-19 like symptoms (not attributed to a pre-existing condition or known cause), the instructor should:

- ensure that physical distancing is maintained,
- advise the student to return home directly and not to have close contact with others (do not take public transit – local taxi service, Brock Q Taxi at 905-935-5000 are able to provide transportation if necessary, ensuring a face covering is used),
- if a residence student, advise them to contact the south service desk, located within the Lowenberger residence, for further assistance regarding room assignment for self-isolation purposes,
- advise the student to report their illness to Student Health Services, for further support, at 905-688-5550 ext. 3243, and/or [covid19@brocku.ca](mailto:covid19@brocku.ca) and/or the student reporting portal on mybrocku.ca (<https://myqa.brocku.ca/Portal/StudentSelfServe.aspx>), which are monitored and followed up by the COVID nurse Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm,
- excuse the student from class,
- contact Student Health Services at 905-688-5550 ext. 3243, and/or [covid19@brocku.ca](mailto:covid19@brocku.ca), Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm, directly in order to confidentially provide the student's name and brief details so that the COVID nurse can conduct appropriate follow-up and/or support,
- if the student is able to exit the classroom and obtain the services, they require to be safe, then the class can resume depending on the comfort of the instructor and students. If they are not able to do so, see "Student Emergency" details below.

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## Student Emergency

In the event the situation is more serious, or the ill student is not able to care for themselves, the instructor should:

- Call 9-1-1 from a classroom landline phone for emergency medical assistance which simultaneously triggers Campus Security response,
- If 9-1-1 was called from a cellular phone, contact Campus Security Services at 905-688-5550 ext. 3200, provide information on what type emergency, location, any student information and if EMS has already been called,
- ensure that physical distancing is maintained and ask student to sit in a safe location,
- immediately dismiss the class and advise there will be follow up with course activities and next steps through email or SAKAI.
- take direction from Niagara Emergency Medical Services and/or Campus Security Services as the case may be,
- Campus Security Services will share information with Student Health Services, to ensure that there is appropriate medical follow-up with the student.

## Student Reports Illness to Instructor

In the event a student reports that they are unable to participate in class due to illness (even in circumstances where the student is taking online classes only) instructors should, in addition to normal procedures:

- advise the student to report their illness to Student Health Services, for further support, at 905-688-5550 ext. 3243, and/or [covid19@brocku.ca](mailto:covid19@brocku.ca) and/or the student reporting portal on mybrocku.ca (<https://myqa.brocku.ca/Portal/StudentSelfServe.aspx>), which are monitored and followed up by the COVID nurse Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm, and
- contact Student Health Services directly at 905-688-5550 ext. 3243, and/or [covid19@brocku.ca](mailto:covid19@brocku.ca), Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm, to advise of the situation, so that they may follow-up with the ill student and provide support as necessary.

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## Student Reports Positive COVID-19 Test Results

In this circumstance instructors must remain cognizant of the **confidential** nature of this disclosure. Instructors should also be assured that Public Health assesses every COVID-19 case in order to determine risks associated with past close contact and potential virus transmission. Based on this assessment, Public Health may or may not notify Brock University of the case or request assistance with respect to contact tracing.

Public Health maintains the sole responsibility for contact tracing processes. Provided the mitigation strategies put in place within our lecture hall or classroom environments are followed, the risk of further transmission in that environment will remain low. In the event a student discloses a positive test result to an instructor, the instructor should:

- treat the information disclosed as being highly confidential,
- advise the student to consult with Student Health Services at 905-688-5550 ext. 3243, and/or covid19@brocku.ca, and/or the student reporting portal on mybrocku.ca ( <https://myqa.brocku.ca/Portal/StudentSelfServe.aspx>), which are monitored and followed up by the COVID nurse Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm, if they have not already (this is necessary to ensure the student's health needs have been addressed and to track cases in the Brock community in order to identify trends if any, and take additional action as necessary to mitigate risk),
- contact Student Health Services at 905-688-5550 ext. 3243, and/or covid19@brocku.ca, Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm, directly to advise of the information and permit Student Health Services medical staff to offer support to the student, and
- if required, participate in contact tracing processes by sharing information upon request of Public Health officials.

## Recommendation Regarding Medical Notes

In an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 and following the direction from Public Health and the Ontario Medical Association, many physicians including those at Student Health Services, have suspended face to face appointments. This change impacts the ability of students to have Brock's Medical Certificates completed if requested by faculty. This issue is also one that speaks to the importance of prioritizing resources, given medical notes take time away from our physician's primary care responsibilities.

Given this context, we ask that you reconsider asking students to provide medical notes in the event of assignment interruption during this period when the university's normal on campus schedule has been disrupted and when our students are facing difficult challenges.