

## **Attendance Policies for Absences and Missed Class due to Infectious Diseases (such as COVID-19, influenza, and mpox)**

*Updated: August 2023*

The current public health situation in the US and NYC indicates that we will likely encounter cases of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases this fall. Please note recent university communication [here on updated COVID-19 guidance for the fall semester.](#)

To maintain the health and safety of students, staff and faculty during this academic year, and to support our students academically, below are guidelines regarding student absences.

### **For infectious disease-related absences of 10 days or less:**

Students who are adhering to isolation due to a diagnosis of COVID-19 or another infectious disease must not attend class during their mandated isolation period. Students will follow the guidance of their healthcare provider regarding the length of the isolation period. Student absences relating to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases will be recognized as appropriate for such absences, and students will not be penalized.

- Students must contact their instructor to inform them that they will be unable to attend in-person classes for medical reasons. The student may decide to share the reason for the absence, but is not required to do so. Students must include the required dates of their absence and communicate regularly with the instructor about their ability to participate during that time. Faculty may not require documentation of such absences.
- As for any illness of short duration, students should work directly with their instructors to develop a plan to receive instruction and complete course related work. Instructors are expected to make reasonable accommodations for students who miss classes, assignments or exams due to necessary isolation related to an infectious disease diagnosis.
- Depending on the size, format and pedagogical goals of the class, instructors can support students in isolation in a number of ways to help students catch up on materials and assignments. Such support may include the following:
  - Record their lecture or class or make existing recorded lecture available
  - Invite a remote student to “attend” via a Zoom link to be used only during this period
  - Create an activity that students could complete on their own to make up missed class or content
- Students should note that not all courses are being recorded and they should be in touch with their instructor as to the best way to make up missed class and assignments.
- Instructors are not expected to teach additional hybrid or online sections to accommodate individual student absences of less than one week.

### **For extended absences – longer than 10 days:**

Students who must be absent for longer than 10 days due to an infectious disease will need to provide appropriate medical documentation to [Disability Services](#) (DS). Documentation must include the medical diagnosis and the estimated duration of absence (due to isolation or prolonged symptoms), and can be obtained from the Medical Services. Disability Services will expedite the [registration process](#) for students requiring accommodations due to a prescribed extended medical absence due to an infectious disease. Faculty members will be contacted by Disability Services or DS Liaison if appropriate to review

what accommodations can be provided to a student who has a prolonged absence. Students will not be penalized for extended absences.