Supporting Students through the Fall Semester

Preparing for student absences and Isolation / Quarantine

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Good news!

• Currently, we have very low numbers of student testing positive for Covid, and VERY small numbers of students in isolation and quarantine

• When students have become ill, they are mostly mildly ill and have been able to keep up with their courses while in quarantine
Challenges to Instructors

• Students have been staying home when they feel ill
  • We want to encourage this as good public health practice
  • BUT this means absences even outside students in isolation & quarantine

• There is still a possibility of future increases in cases

• The increase in cases in September was early in the semester. Absences now mean missing deadlines and tests

• As we prioritize encouraging students to stay home for public health reasons, there will be students who take advantage of the circumstances; we just have to accept that as a reasonable cost
Think ahead about your class and assignments

• Delaying an exam or assignment date for a student
  • Isolation/quarantine lasts 10 days
• Allowing the student to do an alternative test or assignment
• Re-weighting other assignments and allowing students to miss an assignment
• Taking an incomplete to allow a student to finish after the end of the semester (in Emory College, this needs OUE approval)

What is best may depend on the timing, the student, and the assignment
Communicate what you want to students ahead of time

• Make it clear you do not want them to come to class when they are sick

• Do you want them to document why they are absent?
  • A direct email to you explaining their absence
  • OUE’s absence form: https://collegeconnect.emory.edu/register/self-cert-student-absence
  • A copy of their email from Student Health confirming an appointment (for MAJOR assignments only, if you want to make sure they have connected with student health)

• Keep in mind that some illnesses don’t require medical care but only home-care—some flexibility might be necessary