

URI Health Services Policy and Procedure

Title:	Student Medical Excuse Note Policy	Policy Number:	CL.96, ADM 4.19
Originator:	Medical Director	Effective Date:	09/01/2024
Applies to:	Clinical Staff/Administrative Staff	Revised Date(s):	
Forms/Attachments:	<i>J Am Coll Health, 2009; 57:561-563</i>	Related Policies:	ADM 4.16

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE:

Students frequently present to URI Health Services seeking medical excuse notes to justify an absence from a class or exam. Oftentimes, the illnesses that these students present with are self-limited and mild and do not require medical attention. In addition, guidance from both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) recommend that adults self-isolate from work and school if they are suffering from an acute respiratory illness

Medical visits solely for medical excuse notes can occupy a significant portion of the clinic schedule and therefore create a barrier for students with more significant illnesses to receive timely medical evaluation. Moreover, providing medical excuse notes is counter to Health Services’ mission to educate students regarding the appropriate use of the health care system and is not congruent with the University’s Human Resource policy for staff and faculty work absences.

OBJECTIVE:

If a student requires 3 or more days away from their academic responsibilities, a Dean’s Notification will be made via the URI Health Services

URI Health Services will not provide illness excuse notes for mild, self-limited illnesses of less than 3 days duration. If a student requires 3 or more days away from their academic responsibilities, a Dean’s Notification will be made via the URI Health Services’ administration. In addition, students with new medical conditions with the potential to have a long-term effect on their academic career may be referred to the University’s Office of Disability, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DAI).

PROCEDURE:

This policy will be shared with the University’s Office of the Provost to be communicated to all URI faculty.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Corson-Rikert J. and Christmas W. The Medical Excuse Game Revisited.
J Am Coll Health, 2009; 57:561-563

[CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance](#)

[RIDOH Respiratory Virus Guidance](#)