

12/8/21 – COVID Symptoms and Excused Absences

Good afternoon MS1 and MS2 students,

It has come to our attention that students may be coming to campus with symptoms that they should have checked in the [Upstate Self Screen Assessment Tool](#). This violates Upstate and SUNY policy that no one, regardless of vaccination status, may come to campus with any of these symptoms.

The following symptoms are included:

- Fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New cough
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Chills or repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle and/or joint pain
- New headaches
- New skin sore of unknown origin
- Fatigue
- Runny nose
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

What to do if you are experiencing symptoms, have had possible exposure to COVID, or have any questions at all:

- Call the Staff/Student COVID-19 resource line: If you are experiencing the above symptoms, need to be tested, have travel and quarantine questions, or need information about returning to work/class. The resource line also helps prioritize staff and students for testing. Calls are answered by an Upstate nurse 24/7. 315-464-8436
- You should also be using the self-screen chatbot every day that you plan to enter an Upstate location regardless of whether or not you are experiencing symptoms. There is an app and a web version. <https://www.upstate.edu/coronavirus/self-screen.php>

UME and course faculty and staff should not be your source for information on whether or not you are permitted on campus.

Typically, if you are experiencing any of the above symptoms, you may not return to campus until you have a negative Covid test. If you are unwell or it is determined that you are not permitted on campus and have mandatory in-person activities scheduled, you must contact the appropriate faculty to obtain an excused absence and complete any makeup work.

Exams and Quizzes: Email Dr. Poole (poolet@upstate.edu) and cc Theresa Stowell (stowellt@upstate.edu) and the Testing Coordinator, Colleen Denniston (dennistonc@upstate.edu) Quizzes are remote, but if you are too ill to take the quiz, you may request an excused absence. Exams *may* be offered remotely for students who are not able to come to campus but are feeling well enough to take the exam. If Dr. Poole grants an excused absence, you will work with Ms. Denniston on an alternate arrangement or makeup date.

Small Group/Other course activities: Email the course director(s) and cc Theresa Stowell (stowellt@upstate.edu) and the course coordinator(s).

If you are granted an excused absence and there is makeup work, you will receive instructions from the course. **If for any reason, you are unable to complete the work in the time allotted (you are sick, you are overwhelmed trying to catch up, etc.), reach out immediately to the course director(s) for help.**

If you have any questions about where to get information or on excused absence policies, please don't hesitate to reach out to Theresa Stowell via email or phone stowellt@upstate.edu 315-464-8247. You can always stop by or schedule an appointment for an in-person or remote meeting. This information will also be posted on the Curriculum Office's Blackboard Course for future reference.

Sincerely,

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Thomas Poole, PhD
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