

Guidelines on Illness-Related Absences

17 March 2020

As of March 9, 2020, public health authorities have advised that those who have travelled to Hubei province or Iran, or have had close contact with a person ill with COVID-19, should limit their contact with others for a total of 14 days from the date that they left Hubei, Iran, or northern Italy, or were in contact with a person ill with COVID-19. This means [self-isolate](#) and stay at home. In addition, they should contact their [local public health authority](#) within 24 hours of arriving in Canada.

Travellers returning from other [affected areas](#) should [monitor](#) for symptoms. Those who develop symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) or any other symptoms within 14 days after returning to Canada, are advised to contact Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000), your health-care provider, or [local health authority](#). Inform them about your symptoms and travel history.

It is important to continue to check travel and public health advisories, and the [University of Toronto's website](#) as this is an evolving situation.

In order to receive academic accommodation, students will need to record all illness-related absences through [ACORN](#). At this time, students will not normally be asked to supply a doctor's note or medical certificate in relation to absences cold or flu-like symptoms, or requirements to [self-isolate](#). This practice will be assessed over time and as the University receives additional information and guidelines from Public Health authorities.

The University will also rely on this absence record to monitor the numbers and locations of student absences for academic planning, so if possible, students should record their absence as soon as it begins. They should also remember to record the last day of their absence as soon as they are able to return to classes. The absence declaration may be completed online while the student is absent up until and including the day that the student returns to class; those who miss this opportunity may contact their registrar's office (undergraduate students) or their program (graduate students).

Some divisions may require additional steps as well as the absence record on [ACORN](#). If additional steps are required, the division will contact students who have reported an absence to advise them of these steps.

While the University will make every effort to provide needed academic accommodation, students are advised that they continue to be responsible for meeting course requirements as determined by their instructors.