NDSU Student Health Service
Medical Excuse Policy

Student Health Service will no longer provide retroactive medical excuses for students who miss class or exams. We lack direct knowledge about illnesses or injuries that students have managed by self-care and are not in a position to write retroactive excuses. It is the purview of faculty to determine if a student will be excused from class.

Students who are seen at SHS for an active illness may request proof of service or be given a letter of advice from the medical provider if concern for the student’s health needs to be communicated, or if concerns for the health of others exists.

Students with serious illness or significant disability can request that medical staff write a letter detailing their condition. The student is then free to present this letter to their instructors or employers.

The appropriate use of healthcare resources for treating ill patients is encouraged. It’s in the best interests of the students to reserve clinical resources for students who are acutely ill and in need of medical care rather than filling appointment slots with students seeking an excuse for a past illness that was managed through self-care.

It’s important for students to learn self-management of minor illnesses and injuries. Legitimate reasons to stay home with viral illness include decreasing viral exposure to others in the university community and recuperation. Coping skills that are developed as an undergraduate will help students in graduate school and the work world environment. Illness varies greatly among individuals. Hopefully, conversations between students and faculty will identify how students can work around the illness to best continue their academic efforts and achievements.