

Health Service Policy on Medical Absence Documentation

The mission of the Lewis & Clark Health Service is to promote the health of students and to promote the public health of the broader Lewis & Clark community.

Toward those ends, the Health Service is happy to provide medical care *for students who need treatment*. For public health reasons, though, we believe that it is not in the best interest of our community for contagious students *who do not need treatment* to be circulating to the Health Service just to get a medical absence note (i.e. a note which attributes a recent academic absence to an illness) for their instructor. When contagious students who do not need treatment circulate for this purpose, it increases the risk of disease transmission. Also, in the past, students have at times clogged the schedules of our busy medical providers in order to get excuse notes for instructors. This pattern has resulted in fewer clinical hours for students who need medical assessment and treatment.

In accord with this philosophy, the Health Service will only provide medical absence related documentation when students are out of class for extended periods of time (defined as 4 days or more), not when students are missing class for shorter periods (1-3 days). We encourage faculty and students to communicate directly with each other when short-term medical absences occur.