

Siena College Community Information Sheet

Communicable Disease Protocols and Medical Leave Procedures for Students - FAQs

General Information:

Siena College places the highest priority on the health and safety of all members of the College community. In the event a student is diagnosed with a communicable disease (Influenza, COVID-19, Gastroenteritis, etc.) the College has policies and protocols in place to safeguard the community and promote the recovery of the student(s) impacted.

We ask each student and their family to plan the following before a situation arises that necessitates your having to leave campus for a medical leave:

1. If your family cannot come to campus for any reason to get you for the period of your medical leave or isolation, please discuss who from your family, close relatives, friends, or other support system is available for you to stay with during your medical leave. The College does not have an overnight medical facility for you to isolate and stay during the medical leave period for the appropriate supervised medical care.
2. If you do not have a plan, the Dean of Students Office will work with you and your family for you to stay in a local hotel at a discounted rate, payable by the student and/or family.

What should you do when you are feeling ill?

- Siena College Health Services offers same-day appointments (Monday-Friday). Students **must** contact Health Services at 518-783-2554 x1 to speak with the triage nurse to discuss symptoms and next steps. After speaking with the triage nurse, a same day appointment will be scheduled as needed.
- Siena College Health Services can perform diagnostic testing for communicable diseases as part of a student's appointment or recommend off-campus follow-up as needed.

If you are diagnosed with a communicable illness and are placed on medical leave:

- Siena College Health Services will notify the Albany County Department of Health as required by New York State Law.
- Siena College Health Services will place the student on a medical leave for as long as required based on the student's diagnosis and illness.
- Siena College Student Life will notify the student's faculty members that they have been placed on a medical leave and will not be present in class during the leave.
- As noted in the College's Medical Leave Policy, available in *Siena Life*, students on involuntary medical leave must leave campus and remain off campus until they are cleared to return by the Dean of Students, or their designee, in consultation with Siena College Health Services or Siena College Counseling Center. The student is advised to contact their parents/guardians to arrange safe transportation home. If the student cannot get themselves home or if the parents or guardians themselves are unable to come to campus within a specified period, the student must make housing arrangements off campus in coordination with the Dean of Students Office. The student will be required to leave campus within a specified time frame that provides for the safety of the student in order to make transportation arrangements to travel to the location where they will complete the medical leave. The student must be cleared by Health Services and the Dean of Students Office for return.
- Upon completion of required isolation, other requirements, and after follow-up conversations with Siena College Health Services, the student will be approved to return to campus to resume normal activities.

Follow-up care and return to campus:

- Siena College Health Services is available for any needed follow-up care and/or referral to off-campus specialist providers as needed.
- You are not allowed to return to campus until Health Services has cleared you to do so. Your professors will be notified that your medical leave period has ended.