

Dear Students,

The University of Toronto is working to address concerns related to COVID-19.

Everyone has the ability to help reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our community. The most effective things you can do are:

- Wash your hands frequently with warm water and soap for at least 15 seconds and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Sneeze or cough into your arm or sleeve, not into your hands
- Stay home if you feel unwell
- 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.

Since we are encouraging you to stay at home if you are unwell, the University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for absences because of cold or flu-like symptoms, or due to self-isolation requirements. Instead, you will need to record these absences through the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN. The tool can be found in the ACORN Profile and Settings menu. You should record each day of your absence as soon as it begins, up until the day before you return to classes or other academic activities. The University will use this information to provide academic accommodation and to monitor overall absences.

Absences for other illnesses should continue to be documented through the Verification Of Illness (VOI) form and normal divisional process.

While the University will make every effort to provide needed academic accommodation, you are responsible for meeting course requirements as determined by your instructors.

**IMPORTANT:** Please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19](#).

To receive emergency messages from the University on your mobile device, we encourage you to provide additional contact information in the [UTAlert system](#).

The University's primary concern continues to be the health and safety of all members of the University community. Please continue to check the University's homepage for updates on U of T's COVID-19 preparations.

Sincerely,

James R Ginther  
Dean of Theology  
University of St. Michael's College