

It is challenging to determine definitively the cost of illness on campus. Here we will examine several pieces of the topic in an attempt to quantify the cost.

Staff illness – it is simple to know the dollar cost of COVID illness for staff as it is paid separately from regular sick time. In 2019/20 we paid many people who were not sick to stay home when school was closed. In 2020/21 and 2021/22 we paid COVID sick time to those who actually had the illness. The costs were as follows:

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	Total
COVID PAID LEAVE	\$33,417	\$6,830	\$17,244	\$57,491

Most of our student and staff illness occurred in 2021/2022 with the advent of the Omicron variant. When we examine paid sick time on average prior to COVID compared to paid sick time in 2021/22, another startling difference is apparent:

	Average Sick Pay (14/15 through 18/19)	2021/2022	Difference
PAID SICK TIME	\$24,004	\$49,509	\$25,505

Realizing that wages have significantly increased and that not all “sick” time is due to illness, we could make the assumption that 50% of the difference between the average and the actual represents illness which is above “normal”. Given that assumption, the cost of illness in staff for the 2021/22 school year would be \$17,244 plus \$12,753, which is **\$29,997**.

Student Illness – this one is a little more challenging to quantify, particularly since our amazing staff facilitated so much independent study work. We have some basic numbers from which to work. Using the LCFF funding per ADA, we can calculate the value of one student for one day of school. With that multiplier, we can calculate both the funding lost in absences and the funding recovered in independent study. Independent study is significant work for teachers as well as lost instructional time in the classroom for students and therefore to be avoided. If we think of that as a cost rather than a revenue, we can make some assumptions about student illness using that data.

	Average Prior (14/15 through 18/19)	2021/2022	Difference
FUNDING LOSS - ABSENCES	\$45,864	\$82,948	\$37,084
FUNDING – SHORT TERM IND STUDY	\$8,767	\$44,086	\$35,319

Again, recognizing that not all absences are illness, if we reduce the variance by 50% we can make a cautious assumption for an amount representative of the cost of student illness on campus. Doing the math, \$37,084 plus \$35,319 is \$72,403. Divide this in half and we get **\$36,202**.

Given these assumptions, we can put a price tag on the annual cost of illness on campus when there is significant viral exposure in the community - **\$66,199**.

The following videos and written article present information on a cutting-edge technological solution to both airborne and surface contaminants that can cause illness. Far UVC light is not harmful to humans but disrupts viruses and bacteria such as MRSA, Salmonella, TB, Influenza, and coronaviruses including SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19. If this technology is of interest, we can reach out to several

suppliers for bids to purchase or lease equipment to prevent spread of illness and/or infection on campus.