



September 20, 2019

Dear Teachers,

Please excuse your students from regularly scheduled school activities on Sept. 20, 2019, for the [Global Climate Strike](#). Their absence is necessary because of the climate crisis.

As health and medical professionals, we know climate change is a global health emergency that is already causing widespread harm to people’s health and well-being.

In fact, it’s likely this won’t be the first or last time your students miss school due to climate change. Asthma is [the most common reason](#) for school absences, and climate change is linked to several [well-known asthma triggers](#), including extreme heat, air pollution, allergies, and mold. Your students’ mental health is also at risk, as climate-related natural disasters have been found to [cause PTSD in children](#), and [general anxiety about climate change is increasing](#) among young people.

These are only a few of the many ways the climate crisis is jeopardizing young people’s ability to grow into healthy adults and reach their full intellectual and creative potential.

Students around the world are asserting their right to inherit a livable planet, and we stand with them in this fight.

We thank the striking students for their leadership and recommend they continue to call for immediate climate solutions to protect their health and future. Striking for climate action is a medically recommended activity to gain the attention of decision-makers, and results will improve with the support of adult allies.

Your students may return to school when the climate strike is over. However, if meaningful action isn’t taken soon, we excuse your students to strike again on another Friday in the near future.

Sincerely,

*The undersigned health and medical professionals ([list of signatories here](#))*

