

COVID-19 Testing, Exposure Management and Contact Tracing for All Students and Non-Medical Center Faculty and Staff

9.11.20

The following is a brief description of the process for all students and all non-medical center employees (faculty and staff) to receive guidance related to COVID-19 testing, exposure and contact tracing. Wexner Medical Center faculty and staff should follow the [guidance provided by the Wexner Medical Center](#). For more information about COVID-19, please see the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website](#).

What is the process if you develop symptoms of or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19?

- Students:
 - Contact your local primary care provider (PCP) for a health assessment and direction.
 - If you do not have a local PCP, please schedule a telehealth appointment with Ohio State Student Health Services (SHS) via My BuckMD and select COVID Symptoms as appointment reason.
 - If an Ohio State contact tracer determines that you have been exposed as a close contact to someone who is infected with COVID-19, you will be contacted by the team and advised about quarantine and testing.
- Employees (faculty and staff):
 - Contact your primary care provider (PCP) for health assessment and direction.
 - If you do not have a PCP, contact The Ohio State University COVID Call Center at 614-293-4000 to assess the need for testing and to arrange a COVID-19 test if indicated.
 - If your PCP advises that you should have a COVID-19 test, contact The Ohio State University COVID Call Center at 614-293-4000 to arrange a COVID-19 test.
 - If an Ohio State contact tracer determines that you have been exposed as a close contact to someone who is infected with COVID-19, you will be contacted by the team and advised about quarantine and testing.

What steps should an individual who exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19 take?

- If COVID-19 testing is recommended by a health care provider or a contact tracer, you must quarantine yourself.
 - When you are in quarantine, you should stay home, not participate in on-campus activities, separate yourself from others, monitor your health, and follow directions from the Ohio State Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Team and your local health department.
 - If COVID-19 results are negative and you are informed that you need to quarantine, you must remain fully quarantined from other individuals for 14 days.
 - If COVID-19 results are negative and you are informed that you do not need to quarantine, you may return to campus when you are fever-free without fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours.

- If COVID-19 results are positive, see the guidance below.
- If COVID-19 testing is not recommended, you should follow the regular leave policy until you are fever-free without fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours. Details on leave are available here: <https://hr.osu.edu/coronavirus/leave>.

What is considered an exposure to COVID-19?

- An exposure is when you have come in close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. A contact tracer will advise you on whether you have been exposed and next steps.
- Close contact exposure with an individual with COVID-19 includes:
 - Contact for at least 15 minutes at a distance of less than 6 feet from a person with COVID-19 in which one person in the encounter did NOT have personal protective gear (e.g. a properly worn face mask)
 - Providing care at home to a person with COVID-19 without personal protective gear
 - Direct physical/intimate contact with a person with COVID-19 (touching, hugging, kissing)
 - Sharing of eating or drinking cups and utensils with a person with COVID-19
- To count as close contact, the exposure must occur in either the 48 hours prior to or the 10 days after the other person has developed COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19.
- Types of contact **NOT** currently considered an “exposure” to an individual with COVID-19 include:
 - Sitting for 30-60 minutes in the same classroom, lecture hall or dining area as a COVID-19 positive individual at a distance of 6 feet or more
 - Standing in line to order coffee behind an individual with COVID-19 for three minutes at a distance of 6 feet
 - Studying on the same floor in the library with an individual with COVID-19 at a distance of 6 feet or more
 - Walking past an individual with COVID-19 in the hallway of your residence hall or on the Oval

What happens if you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19?

- If you have close contact (as determined by your health care provider or a contact tracer) with an individual with COVID-19, you will quarantine for 14 days from your last exposure to the positive individual regardless of whether you have symptoms.
 - During this 14-day period, you will be asked to stay home, not participate in on-campus activities, separate yourself from others, and monitor your health. You will be excluded from on-site work, school or other on-campus activities.
 - **A negative COVID test during this 14-day quarantine does not “clear you” from the risk of becoming sick with COVID-19 based on the virus’s incubation period.**
- If you have close contact as defined above and have symptoms of COVID-19, please refer to the section above titled “*What is the process if you develop symptoms of or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19?*”.
- If a contact tracer determines that you have had close contact, whether or not you have symptoms, you will have a free COVID-19 test, which you will arrange by calling The Ohio State University COVID Call Center (for faculty and staff) or Student Health Services (for students).
- If you are an employee with questions or concerns about an interaction that you are unsure if it was a close contact with a known COVID-19 positive individual, please contact your healthcare provider to assess your risk. If you do not have a health care provider contact The Ohio State University Telehealth Immediate Care at 614-293-3200.

- If you are a student with questions or concerns about an interaction that you are unsure if it was a close contact with a known COVID-19 positive individual, please contact your health care provider to assess your risk. If you do not have a health care provider, contact Ohio State Student Health Services (SHS) via a secure message on My BuckMD, at sl-covid19.shs@osu.edu, or 614-292-4321.

What happens when an individual tests positive for COVID-19?

- If you are tested through at an Ohio State site (either Student Health Services or a Wexner Medical Center swab station), you will be notified by phone or secure message via My BuckMD about the positive result and will be provided initial guidance for the management of your illness.
 - More information about positive test results is available here: <https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/features/coronavirus/patient-care/covid-19-testing/positive-test>
- Students:
 - If you test positive via Student Health Services (SHS), you will be notified by secure message and by phone. A health care professional will connect with you to provide guidance.
 - If you are tested at another Ohio State site and test positive, SHS will be directly notified of the result and the actions above will begin.
 - If you are tested outside of Ohio State and test positive, notify SHS by secure message via My BuckMD, sl-covid19.shs@osu.edu or 614-292-4321.
 - Please upload your test results via BuckMD under Health Records – COVID-19 Documents.
 - You should notify faculty members/instructors/supervisors as soon as you can if you are ill with COVID-19 or having symptoms, or otherwise unable to attend in-person classes/work, to arrange for accommodations and plans for making up work.
 - You are not required to tell any faculty members/instructors that you have COVID-19 if you have tested positive, unless they are your supervisor.
 - Upon a positive test result of a student, Student Health Services will:
 - Notify the student support team. A team member will contact you to offer additional resources (support connecting with instructors, mental health resources, isolation housing information, etc.).
 - Contact the Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Team (CICTT) which will perform contact tracing. This includes obtaining a history of exposures within 48 hours prior to developing symptoms and a determination of other individuals who need to quarantine
 - Your identity will not be shared with those who the CICTT determines are close contacts and need to quarantine.
 - The Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Team will collaborate with your local health department to share any pertinent contact tracing information for those outside the university community.
 - If you have a Primary Care Provider (PCP), that provider will have the primary role in advising you on your medical condition. If you do not have a PCP, Student Health Services will have the primary role in advising you on your medical condition.
 - Employees (faculty and staff) of the university who learn of a possible or positive COVID-19 test result for a student are not authorized to share the student's health information. This is a violation of their privacy, and this information is protected by HIPAA and other laws. Please work with SHS and the CICTT to provide the appropriate follow up.
- Employees (faculty and staff):
 - You must report a positive COVID-19 test result to your supervisor.

- If you are tested outside of Ohio State and test positive, you must notify Employee Health Services (EHS) by calling 614-366-3689.
 - If you are tested at an Ohio State site, the Ohio State contact tracing team and Columbus Public Health will be notified of the positive result.
- The university Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Team (CICTT) will contact you as they perform case investigation and contact tracing.
- If you learn of a COVID-19 positive or possible COVID-19 positive employee in your unit, do not share the employee's health information. This is a violation of their privacy, and this information is protected by HIPAA and other laws. Please work with EHS and the CICTT to provide the appropriate follow up.