

**If an EMPLOYEE tests positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms, we follow CDC guidelines:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

In brief, the guidelines direct us to have the suspected COVID-19 infectee tested. If s/he tests positive, then s/he must remain quarantined for at least ten 10 days. If after 10 days the person has no temperature for 24 hours, then s/he may return.

The Wilson County Health Dept. (WCHD) communicates with the suspected infectee, identifying “contacts” who may have been exposed to the virus through interaction with or proximity to the infectee. We, too, communicate with the employee about contacts.

A “contact” is someone who has had significant physical contact (like kissing or hugging) with an infectee, or has been exposed to an infectee’s bodily fluids, or has been within 6 feet of an infectee for 15 minutes or more (that’s with or without a mask). Because of COVID-19’s incubation period, a contact must remain quarantined for 14 days after exposure, regardless of a negative test or lack of symptoms. The 14-day quarantine applies to suspected infectees who test negative, as well.

Finally, we will thoroughly disinfect the physical spaces affected.

**If a STUDENT tests positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms:**

If the student infectee is not yet quarantining him/herself, then we will direct him/her to remain off campus for the duration of the appropriate period, as described above for infectees and contacts. We don’t have the authority to force a student to quarantine; we do, however, have the authority—and the responsibility—to ban a suspected infectee or contact from campus for the appropriate period.

The College may contact a suspected student infectee and ask him/her to identify any students, faculty, or staff with whom s/he has had significant physical contact (as described above). That information would be given to the College voluntarily; it is the WCHD’s role to officially request that information from suspected infectees.

Please remember: The Health Insurance Portability & Privacy Act’s (HIPAA) “Privacy Rule” prevents us from identifying suspected infectees to other students or to employees. Thus, the Executive Dean of Student Development may communicate to classmates, but only that an unnamed student in their class is a suspected infectee.

Further, if the suspected student infectee volunteers information that leads us to believe any classmates may be contacts, we will notify those potential student contacts so they can take steps appropriate to their own health and safety. We may also ask those potential contacts to remain off campus for 14 days; during that time, we would do everything possible to help the student continue his/her studies uninterrupted.