

## COVID-19 Student Confirmed Positive/Close Contact Case Guide

California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) COVID-19 Response Team has established a protocol for responding to positive and close contact cases on campus; this process is in partnership with several offices and departments. This guide is designed to educate the campus community on the steps involved in this process to ensure that accurate, timely, and transparent information is relayed to the campus community. As new public health guidance is released, this guide is subject to change at any time.

### Campus Response to COVID-19 Cases & Exposures Involving Students

In the event a positive COVID-19 case occurs on campus or an individual is deemed a close contact (see “*COVID-19 Close Contact*” section for definition), the following protocols will be initiated:

#### COVID-19 Positive Case

A positive COVID-19 case is defined as:

- a. A person who has a positive viral test for COVID-19 (i.e., a laboratory-confirmed case) and/or
- b. A person who has a positive COVID-19 diagnosis from a licensed healthcare provider.

A COVID-19 case is considered as able to spread the virus to others (infectious):

- If symptomatic - from 2 days before their symptoms first started until their isolation period ends, or
- If symptoms never develop - from 2 days before their positive viral test was taken until their isolation period ends.

#### Step 1 — Student Contacts COVID-19 Hotline, Self-Isolates & Notifies Professor

- Student immediately contacts the CSUDH COVID-19 Hotline by phone at 310-243-2076 (open daily 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.), or by [reporting a positive case online](#). If outside normal business hours, a confidential message may be left, and a member of the team will return the call the next business day.
- Student must notify their professor that they are not able to return to class and self-isolate at home. Students will be supplied with an Isolation Letter to provide to their professor.

- Students must self-isolate at home for 10 days, conduct daily self-monitoring of symptoms, and maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others. Per recent LA County Department of Public Health guidelines, the university is in the process of aligning internal operations to provide an option for a shortened isolation timeframe, which would include antigen testing. Updates to the guide will be published as they become available.

Professor Note: Should we move to a virtual platform? It depends. The COVID-19 Response Team in conjunction with the instructor and/or College Dean will make the determination on whether it is scientifically necessary to cancel class or pause in-person instruction. It will depend on 1.) If there have been two or more epi-linked cases within 14 days in the classroom. 2.) Amount of noted close contacts to positive case 3.) Overall vaccination status of the class.

For example, one student testing positive in a class, doesn't necessarily warrant a cancellation or pause because that student may not have attended class during the infectious period. That is information that the COVID-19 Response Team would have following an interview with the student.

### **Step 2 — COVID-19 Response Team Contacts Student and Begins Contact Investigation**

- A member of COVID-19 Response Team will contact the student to collect pertinent health and event information, including the last date the individual was on campus, and location(s) the individual visited while on campus.
- The COVID-19 Response Team will determine whether the student had close contact with other employees or students during the two days before the student's symptoms started, or since the student tested positive.
- The COVID-19 Response Team will send out 1-2 surveys during the isolation period to maintain communication on symptoms and isolation needs during the isolation period.

### **Step 3 — COVID-19 Response Team Contacts Identified Close Contacts & Health Department**

- Individuals whom the COVID-19 Response Team identify as having had close contact with the infected student will be required to self-quarantine for 10 days if student is unvaccinated or is vaccinated and showing symptoms. Should symptoms develop, individuals must report symptoms to the COVID-19 Hotline and self-isolate for 10 days from symptom onset.

- The COVID-19 Response Team will provide the student with the latest guidance from local and state health officials, which changes periodically, for caring for themselves and protecting those around them.
- Per regulation, details will be passed along to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH), which may initiate further contact tracing and health monitoring.

#### **Step 4 — Classroom Notification**

Professors of a positive student case within a classroom will be provided with a Notification Letter to provide their class, strongly encouraging students to test and resources should they have any questions or concerns.

Please visit [Toros Together University-Issued COVID-19 Case Notifications](#) for additional information.

#### **Step 5 — Cleaning & Sanitization**

Facilities Services cleans known high touchpoints in used spaces daily with a disinfectant known to kill Sars-Cov-2. Should a space be identified that is not on a normal cleaning schedule, and this is identified within 3 days of the person being in the space, then a work order will be submitted by the COVID-19 Response Team.

#### **Step 6 — Student Returns to Campus**

- Students may return to campus after 10 days since symptom(s) onset or from the testing date if asymptomatic, no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and symptoms have improved.
- **Students are not required to retest via PCR test to prove that they have recovered.** Individuals are prohibited from PCR testing on campus for 90 days after a positive result. Due to the sensitivity of the PCR test, it may indicate that COVID is still present, even though they have recovered and are no longer contagious. Instead, antigen testing is the ideal option in this circumstance, as it would only detect live proteins of the virus. The university is in the process of providing antigen testing on campus.

## COVID-19 Close Contact

A “close contact” is defined as an individual exposed to a positive case; this includes:

- a. A person who was within 6 feet of a positive case for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. This is regardless of use of face masks of the positive case or contact.
- b. A person who had unprotected contact with the body fluids and/or secretions of a positive case. For example, coughed or sneezed on by a positive case, shared utensils, a cup, or saliva, or cared for a positive case without wearing appropriate protective equipment.

Identified close contacts will be contacted by the COVID-19 Response Team. However, they will not be provided the identity of the positive case.

### Step 1 — Student Contacts COVID-19 Hotline

- Student immediately contacts the CSUDH COVID- 19 Hotline by phone at 310-243-2076 (open daily 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.), or by [reporting a close contact situation online](#). If outside normal business hours, a confidential message may be left, and a member of the team will return the call the next business day.
- The close contact will be phoned by a member of the COVID-19 Response Team and will be asked to provide details about their symptoms and information about where and/or how they were exposed.

### Step 2 — Student Follows COVID-19 Response Team Directives

- Unvaccinated students that have been exposed and vaccinated students showing symptoms will be required to quarantine for 10 days after their last exposure to the infected person, monitor for symptoms and seek testing.
- Students will be supplied with a Quarantine Letter to provide to their professor.
- COVID-19 Response Team will provide student with the latest guidance from local and state health officials, which changes periodically, for caring for themselves.

### Step 3 — Student Notifies Professor

- The student notifies their professor of possible COVID-19 exposure if they must remain off campus. Students will be supplied with a Quarantine Letter to provide to their professor.

## **Significant Number of COVID-19 Cases on Campus**

Should multiple members in a classroom test positive for COVID-19 simultaneously, the university will consult with division leadership and if necessary, the county department of public health. The decision on whether to transition to an online format will be in consultation with the COVID-19 Response Team.

If a critical mass of COVID-19 cases is impacting campus, the university will expand the utilization of online services, and operations accordingly to ensure the wellbeing of the campus community.

## **Final Note**

Please practice patience and be courteous to members of the COVID-19 Response Team contacting you to discuss your situation. The team's sole purpose is to make the campus a safeplace to learn and work, please allow them to do so. Questions may be directed to the COVID-19 Response Team at [COVIDResponseTeam@csudh.edu](mailto:COVIDResponseTeam@csudh.edu).