



# COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Policy

NAME:	COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Policy
ISSUING DEPARTMENT	Office of Environmental Health and Safety
ISSUED DATE:	June 2020
REVIEWED DATE:	January 11, 2022
APPROVING AUTHORITY:	Cabinet
DATE REVISED:	January 4, 2022

## **DEFINITIONS**

Isolation and quarantine are public health practices used to protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a contagious disease.

Quarantine refers to the process of separating and restricting the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease (COVID-19) to see if they become sick.

Isolation refers to the process of separating sick people with a contagious disease (COVID-19) from people who are not sick.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures for temporary quarantine and self-isolation related to the novel coronavirus COVID-19 for the protection of the affected individual and the protection of the University's campus community.

## **SCOPE**

This procedure concerns all faculty, staff, students and residential guests.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

It is the responsibility of the Office of Environmental Health and Safety to update and implement the policy, as needed.

## **PROCEDURE**

**Exhibiting symptoms and self-reporting:** Any University faculty, staff, student or volunteer who is currently on campus or has been physically on campus should self-report to the Director of Environmental Health and Safety under the following conditions:

- a) **Exhibiting symptoms:** Any individual who displays signs or symptoms of COVID-19 illness, including flu-like symptoms with fever  $> 100$ ; cough; shortness of breath; loss of smell; or loss of taste.
- b) **Interactions with exposed individuals:** Any individual who comes into contact with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 10 days.

- c) **Tested positive for COVID-19:** Any individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 is required to self-report a positive test to the Director of Environmental Health and Safety and must self-isolate.
- d) **Cleared to return to campus to work or reside:** Any individual that has tested positive for COVID-19 shall be required to follow the requirements of the CDC/PA Dept. Of Health for isolation prior to returning to campus.

**Quarantine/Isolation for students and campus residents:** Mansfield University will continue to follow the CDC/PA Department of Health guidance for the quarantine/isolation of individuals who have been exposed or diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus.

Positive Test: Any student or employee who tests positive for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status:

- Isolate off-campus for five days.
- If you have no symptoms and test negative, you may end the isolation after the initial five days, but should continue to wear a mask at all times for an additional five days.
- For resident students, meals should be eaten in their residence hall room when possible.

Exposure: Any student or employee exposed to a person who tested positive for COVID-19: (Exposure is defined as a direct contact with someone who has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus for a period of 15 minutes or more, and closer than six feet.)

- If you've received the booster vaccine dose or have completed the primary vaccine series within the past six months:
  - Wear a mask at all times for 10 days.
  - Test on day five, if possible.
- If you have not received the booster dose or your primary vaccine series was completed greater than six months ago:
  - Quarantine off-campus for five days.
  - If you do not have symptoms and test negative on or after day five, quarantine can end, but a mask should continue to be worn at all times for an additional five days.

Students who are advised to quarantine or isolate due to a confirmed exposure or confirmed positive test result must follow the isolation guidelines of the Pennsylvania Department of Health in an off-campus location. Student Health Services, along with Student Living, have limited resources for resident students who are unable to isolate or quarantine off-campus; approval of accommodations for such students will be made on a case-by-case basis.

**Quarantine for employees:** Mansfield University employees who have been advised to quarantine shall remain at their personal residence until their medical provider indicates that the quarantine period has expired.

**Isolation timeline requirements:** If a resident or employee is under isolation and would like to consult with DOH, please call their local health department or 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258).

This guidance is based on available information about COVID-19 and subject to change as additional information becomes available. These recommendations will prevent most instances, but may not prevent all instances, of secondary spread. The risk of transmission after recovery is substantially less than that during illness.

- **For persons in immediate contact with a COVID-19 patient (person continues to live with the confirmed COVID positive person):** Persons who come into immediate contact with someone with COVID-19 must be quarantined for 5 days after the person with COVID-19 has been released from self-isolation. Any exposed person will also need to continue to wear a mask at all times for an additional 5 days after the quarantine is completed. This means the direct contacts will need to remain in quarantine longer than the COVID-19 positive patient remains in self-isolation.

For example, if the person who tested positive for COVID-19 is without fever and feeling well starting on day 6, this person can be released from quarantine and wear a mask at all time for the next 5 days. Any individuals in contact with the COVID-19 positive patient can only be released from their own self-quarantine on day 10.

**Contact Tracing:** Mansfield University will coordinate with the PA Department of Health to provide contact information of students, staff and faculty who may have been in contact with an infected person. Additional information will be made available as requested by the department of health to aid in continued contact tracing.

**Testing:** Mansfield University will continue to support students and employees by providing testing options, as long as resources are available to reduce the quarantine time.

**Distribution of this policy:** Mansfield University Policies/Procedures Directory will be distributed online and maintained by the staff of the designated offices.