



COVID-19 Testing and Clearance POLICY

Students and Employees

Messiah University

Persons with COVID-like symptoms:

All residential and commuter students must report daily temperature and symptoms via the Falcon Health Screening. All faculty and employees must report daily temperature and symptoms via the Falcon Health Screening on days that they report to campus.

Persons with symptoms suspicious for COVID-19 should not report to campus, but should await communication with the COVID triage nurse for further direction. Those with mild symptoms of less than 1 day may be asked to monitor their symptoms and learn/work remotely. If symptoms persist or worsen, students or employees will likely be asked to report to the Engle Center for evaluation and/or testing.

Rapid antigen testing is available for those who present with onset of symptoms between days 1-5. A negative antigen test is typically followed up with a standard send out PCR test (turnaround time 48-72 hours). *Persons are asked to remain off campus or in quarantine housing until a negative PCR test is received AND all symptoms have resolved.*

Persons with EXPOSURE to a confirmed positive COVID case:

Off campus quarantine:

Quarantine for 10 days from the day of last exposure. Perform a SARS-CoV-2 PCR test on day 11.

Test results confirming negative status must be uploaded via the patient portal:

<https://messiah.studenthealthportal.com/Document> or via the Falcon Health Screening:
<https://apex.messiah.edu/apex/f?p=441:1:8511567975072:::>

Once test results received and reviewed, Engle Center medical personnel will send CAMPUS CLEARANCE email to confirm symptom-free, fever-free status. Clearance to return issued by Engle Center medical personnel.

Students – RD and Director of Student Success copied on Campus Clearance email.

Employees – Supervisor/Dean and HR copied on Campus Clearance email

On campus quarantine:

Optimally, perform PCR test on day 2-3 after exposure (via molecular PCR testing). Quarantine for 10 days from the time of exposure. Repeat SARS-CoV-2 PCR test (RAPID PCR if available) on day 11. May return to normal campus living if SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests are negative AND symptom-free, fever-free on day 11.

Clearance issued after confirmed normal nursing assessment.

Students – RD and Director of Student Success copied on Campus Clearance email.

Employees – Supervisor/Dean and HR copied on Campus Clearance email

Exposure is defined as: having prolonged direct close contact (less than 6 feet for 15 minutes) with or without a mask 48 hours before symptom onset of a person who is COVID positive or who is later identified as COVID positive person.

Persons with a positive COVID test (symptomatic or asymptomatic):

Off campus isolation:

Isolate for 10 days from TEST RESULT DATE. Repeat SARS-CoV-2 PCR test on day 11.

Test results confirming negative status must be uploaded via the patient portal:

<https://messiah.studenthealthportal.com/Document> or via the Falcon Health Screening:

<https://apex.messiah.edu/apex/f?p=441:1:8511567975072:::>

Once test results received and reviewed, Engle Center medical personnel will send CAMPUS CLEARANCE email confirming that case is symptom free and fever free, taking no fever or symptom reducing medications for 24 hours. Clearance to return issued by Engle Center medical personnel.

Students – RD and Director of Student Success copied on Campus Clearance email.

Employees – Supervisor/Dean and HR copied on Campus Clearance email

On campus isolation:

Isolate for 10 days from TEST RESULT DATE. Repeat SARS-CoV-2 PCR test on day 11.

Test results confirming negative status must be uploaded via the patient portal:

<https://messiah.studenthealthportal.com/Document> or via the Falcon Health Screening:

<https://apex.messiah.edu/apex/f?p=441:1:8511567975072:::>

Once test results received and reviewed, Engle Center medical personnel will send CAMPUS CLEARANCE email confirming that case is symptom free and fever free, taking no fever or symptom reducing medications for 24 hours. Clearance to return issued by Engle Center medical personnel.

Students – RD and Director of Student Success copied on Campus Clearance email.

Employees – Supervisor/Dean and HR copied on Campus Clearance email

If POSITIVE RESULT PERSISTS

Understanding that a positive result MAY persist for up to 3 months, but that the virus can also continue to shed in those with severe illness or in those who are immunocompromised, a determination about clearance to return to campus will be made by the medical director in accordance with CDC guidelines.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>

A negative test PCR test is helpful for future clearance purposes, but is not necessary in determining fitness to return to campus.

In the event of a persistently positive test in a person who REMAINS SYMPTOMATIC, the case must continue to isolate off campus until symptom free. Final clearance given by medical director after confirming that case is symptom free and fever free, taking no fever or symptom reducing medications for 24 hours. ***Another test will not be required.***

Persons with a history of COVID in the past 90 days who have been cleared to be on campus:

- Must still follow all mitigation protocols as outlined by the University, including wearing a mask, social distancing, completing daily health screening, etc
- Are **exempt from COVID 19 SURVEILLANCE TESTING** that the University requires of all students/faculty/employees for 90 days from their INITIAL positive test RESULT date.
- Will be required to TEST and undergo quarantine, ***should they become symptomatic*** with COVID-like symptoms at any time, even during the 90 day period following their positive status, and as advised by Engle Center medical personnel.
- May be required to TEST and follow an enhanced safety protocol, ***should they be exposed to someone*** who has tested positive for COVID-19, even during the 90 day period following their positive status, and as advised by Engle Center medical personnel.

Persons who have been fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 Vaccine:

- *Must submit proof of vaccination* to the Engle Center by uploading it through the patient portal.
- Must still follow all mitigation protocols as outlined by the University, including wearing a mask, social distancing, completing daily health screening, etc
- **Will be exempt from University SURVEILLANCE TESTING** if they have uploaded documentation that demonstrates that they are fully vaccinated (≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine) and are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series
- May still be required to TEST and UNDERGO QUARANTINE, ***should they become symptomatic*** with COVID-like symptoms at any time and as advised by Engle Center medical personnel.
- May still be required to TEST and UNDERGO QUARANTINE, ***should they become symptomatic after exposure to a COVID POSITIVE person*** and as advised by Engle Center medical personnel.
- Will NOT be required to TEST and will be **EXEMPT from quarantine**, ***should they be exposed to someone*** who has tested positive for COVID-19, if they are fully vaccinated (≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine), are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series and have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.
- Those partially vaccinated (one who is two weeks from 1st dose of vaccine in a 2 dose series) may be eligible for a lesser quarantine or enhanced health and safety measures in the event of an exposure and as determined by Engle Center Health professionals.

Travel and Gatherings:

Because of the risk that it poses to our campus community, all students and employees are expected to avoid gatherings where individuals are not masked and distanced as well as limit non-essential travel. Students and employees are asked to report any activities that increase risk to the community on the FalconHealth daily health screening. Those who choose to travel or attend gatherings in conflict with Messiah's protocol (unable to mask and distance while doing so) will be subject to quarantine (and possibly testing) and must await final clearance to return to campus from Engle Center medical staff.

- As such, except for emergencies, employees may not undertake travel where it is known in advance that such travel will impede their ability to physically be at work as scheduled.
- For those employees who are working remotely, it is still recommended from a personal and public health standpoint that employees carefully follow health and safety guidelines and limit unnecessary travel.
- Students who engage in other non-essential travel off-campus, may also be subject to testing or quarantine requirements, based on the results of the daily FalconHealth screening questionnaire and/or other public health exposure concerns.