

Clearing Students and Employees for Return after COVID Exposure or Infection Messiah University

Persons with a history of positive COVID test in the past

Any individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 is prohibited from coming to campus until they can present a documented negative PCR COVID result. Test results confirming negative status can be sent to the Engle Center via fax, email, or uploaded via the patient portal.

Persons with EXPOSURE to a confirmed positive COVID case:

Off campus quarantine: Quarantine for 14 days from the time of exposure. Perform a SARS-CoV-2 PCR test on day 15. Send a copy of negative test results to the Engle Center via fax, email or upload to patient portal. May return to campus if SARS-CoV-2 PCR test is negative AND symptom-free, fever-free. Clearance issued by Engle Center medical director.

On campus quarantine: Test on day 1 (this may help with early contact tracing). Quarantine for 14 days from the time of exposure. Perform another SARS-CoV-2 PCR test on **day 12**. May return to normal campus living if SARS-CoV-2 PCR test is negative AND symptom-free, fever-free. Clearance issued by Engle Center medical director.

**Difference in test dates is to ease burden of on-campus quarantine. Optimal testing date would be day 15 in both scenarios. When POC testing is available, recommend moving to a consistent approach.*

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. Send a copy of negative test results to the Engle Center via fax, email or upload to patient portal. 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.

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

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 the event of a persistently positive test, the case must isolate for another 10 days. Final clearance given by medical director on day 21 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.