



**COVID-19 Exposure and Contact Tracing Policy and Procedures**

**COVID-19 Positive Individuals**

Meridian Community College students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to notify, immediately, the MCC Office of Student Services at 601.484.8894 or cbennett@meridiancc.edu. MCC employees who test positive for COVID-19 are required to notify, immediately, the MCC Office of Human Resources at 601.581.3508 or apickard@meridiancc.edu. The individual should immediately self-isolate and not return to campus for any reason. Any communication should take place via telephone or email. Infected individuals are expected to follow instructions provided by their health care provider and follow the most current CDC guidelines.

**Exposure (Close Contact) to COVID-19**

Meridian Community College refers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) guidance for evaluating students, faculty, and staff with potential exposures to COVID-19. This guidance may be updated as changes are recommended by the CDC and/or the MSDH.

<b>Exposure (Close Contact)</b>	<b>Restrictions</b>
<p><i>Did the MCC student, faculty, or staff member have prolonged close contact with anyone (includes family members, friends, patients, visitors, students, faculty or staff members) with confirmed COVID-19? Close contact with an infected person is specified as spending 15 minutes within 6 feet or less of someone infectious with COVID-19. The 15-minute timeframe is not required to be continuous; rather cumulative throughout the day.</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>The following restrictions will apply.</i></p>
<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p>The student, faculty, or staff member must do the following*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notify your instructor and/or clinical instructor, immediate supervisor, or department chair of the exposure.</li> <li>• Self-quarantine for 14 days from the date of the exposure.</li> <li>• Monitor for fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19.</li> <li>• Contact your healthcare provider to arrange medical evaluation and testing if you develop symptoms.</li> </ul>
<p align="center">No</p>	<p>Follow all recommended infection prevention and control practices, including wearing a facemask, self-monitoring for fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19, and not reporting to school or the clinical setting when ill, and undergoing active screening for fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 at the beginning of class or clinical rotation.</p> <p>Any MCC student, faculty, or staff member who develops fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should immediately self-isolate and contact their healthcare provider to arrange medical evaluation and testing.</p>

\*Students, faculty or staff members in Health Education/Nursing programs who have contact with COVID positive patients in the clinical setting will follow the guidelines of the clinical facility related to how exposure is defined.

Instructions for MCC students, faculty, and staff member who have been exposed to COVID-19 as defined in the table above:

1. Notify your instructor and/or clinical instructor, immediate supervisor, or department chair of the exposure.
2. Self-quarantine for 14 days from the date of the exposure.
3. Monitor for fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
4. Contact your healthcare provider to arrange medical evaluation and testing if you develop symptoms.

### **Contact Tracing**

When a member of the college community presents a positive test for COVID-19, the College will investigate potential exposures of others and conduct contact tracing. The student or employee will be instructed to complete the contact tracing form where they will list names (if possible), dates, times and locations where they may have put others at risk of exposure. This includes times of prolonged close contact with a student, faculty, or staff member. The College's delegated representative will follow up with communication with the infected person to evaluate the length of interaction, location of the interaction, the nature of the interaction, as well as the personal protection equipment utilized in the interaction. To protect privacy, close contacts are only informed that they have had a potential exposure. The identity of the infected person will not be given, and no identifying information will be released.

The College will communicate with the persons listed who have been determined to be at risk of exposure, when contact information is available, and provide them with the necessary information to understand their risk, and information to prevent the spread of illness to others. Information regarding self-quarantine and self-monitoring will be provided. Close contacts may be required to stay home. See above for return to campus requirements.

### **Return to Campus Requirements**

In accordance with the CDC and MSDH guidelines:

- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, who either have or do not have symptoms, and were directed to isolate may return to campus under the following conditions:
  - At least 10 days\* have passed since symptom onset (or from date of positive test if asymptomatic) or length of time designated in writing by the healthcare provider, *and*
  - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, *and*
  - Other symptoms have improved.

\*A limited number of persons with severe illness may produce replication-competent virus beyond 10 days, that may warrant extending duration of isolation for up to 20 days after symptom onset. Consider consultation with infection control experts.

See [Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings \(Interim Guidance\)](#).

- Individuals who were placed on a 14-day quarantine due to possible exposure, may return to campus after at least 14 days have passed since the exposure occurred.

Note: if symptoms develop, individuals should follow guidance above for persons with COVID-19.

- *References*

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>

### **Residence Halls and Quarantine**

Students residing on campus who test positive or who need to quarantine, will be encouraged to move home during the quarantine period. When this is not possible, the student will be provided a room in Eagle Hall, if space is available, until they meet the return to campus requirements.

### **Local COVID-19 Testing Providers**

The following is a list of testing sites, within Lauderdale County, providing COVID-19 testing:

- Anderson Regional Health System 601-553-7888
- Clarkdale Clinic 601-282-3271
- Greater Meridian Health Clinic 601-693-0151
- Rush Health Systems 601-703-9913

For additional sites, visit the MS Department of Health website at [msdh.ms.gov](http://msdh.ms.gov). Call ahead before visiting to make testing arrangements. Each provider will set their own testing fee. Ask about the cost of testing when you call a test provider. After you are tested you should isolate yourself while you wait for test results. It is essential to remain at home and away from other family members as much as possible to prevent the possible spread of disease.

Approved by Board 2020 07 14

Distributed 2020 07 23

Distributed 2020 08 13

Distributed 2020 08 31

Distributed 2020 09 04