All students are asked to monitor their health for COVID-19 symptoms daily and complete a self-assessment before coming to campus or leaving their residence room. There are two ways to complete the required health screening: by using UCheck or by completing a paper-based or offline assessment log. Students who receive a red status after completing a self-assessment should follow the directions provided via UCheck or on the offline or paper-based log.

Students who think they may have COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, difficulty breathing, etc.) should stay home, self-isolate and complete the province’s self-assessment tool to determine if they should go to a COVID-19 assessment centre to get tested. If students are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, they are to contact Campus Health and Wellness or Health and Counselling Centre.

If students receive a positive test result, they are to immediately contact the Occupational Health Nurse (OHN) at ehs.occhealth@utoronto.ca. Instructors or staff who are notified by a student that the student has tested positive should ask them to report this to U of T’s OHN.

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This guidance is expected to change often based on COVID-19 related public health and government directives. Please do not download/circulate this document; visit the COVID-19 General Workplace Guidelines for most up to date version.

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If you have any questions regarding any of the process steps please contact gina.trubiani@utoronto.ca DIRECTLY.
All members of our community are asked to monitor their health for COVID-19 symptoms daily and complete a self-assessment before coming to campus. There are two ways to complete the required health screening: by using UC Patient Health Check or by completing a paper-based or offline assessment log. Staff, faculty, and librarians who think they may have COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, difficulty breathing, etc.) should stay home, self-isolate, and complete the province’s self-assessment tool to determine if they should go to a COVID-19 assessment centre to get tested. Employees who receive a red status after completing a self-assessment should follow the directions provided via UC Patient Health Check or on the offline or paper-based log.

If they have symptoms or receive a positive test result, immediately contact the Occupational Health Nurse (OHN) at ehs.occhealth@utoronto.ca. As a supervisor, if you are notified by a member of your team that they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have tested positive, ask the employee to report this directly to U of T’s Occupational Health Nurse.

Faculty, Staff, Librarians

- OHN provides guidance to index case.
- OHN identifies close contacts and provides notification and further guidance*.
- EHS informs VP-HRE, VP-FAL, LR (employee confirmed cases), employee supervisor and will confirm other leadership to be notified.
- EHS notifies tri-campus facilities and services (F&S).
- F&S sends disinfection closure notification, schedule for disinfection, and final notice when disinfection is completed and spaces are re-opened.
- EHS provides advice for broader communication as required and provides template.
- EHS sends notice to Joint Health and Safety Committee/union only for employee related occupational incidences.

Lab Spaces: PI to secure lab and confirm with EHS prior to caretaking entering the lab. EHS conducts risk assessment and modifies disinfection if needed.

Approvals may be required for broader message. (see page 3)

For workplace transmission, where applicable, EHS will inspect the location and/or deploy rapid testing.

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Definitions and Requirements

*OHN (occupational health nurse) - designated Toronto Public Health (TPH) and Peel Public Health (PPH) contact who facilitates ALL contract tracing and accesses as required by TPH/PPH. OHN will immediately notify TPH at 416-338-7600 when made aware of two or more people who test positive for COVID-19 within a 14-day interval in connection the workplace premises.

**Positive** – defined as confirmed positive test
- Individual required to self-isolate and will receive guidance from OHN
- Contact tracing conducted, close contacts identified, and disinfection areas identified

**Symptomatic** – defined as those who have COVID-19 symptoms requiring action per the provincial screening tool.
- Individual is required to self-isolate and will receive guidance
- OHN completes risk stratification, and contact tracing is conducted, close contacts identified, and disinfection areas identified.

Individuals with symptoms NOT on the provincial screening tool do not trigger further action.

If someone is self-isolating due to COVID-19 symptoms, close contact identification, contact tracing and risk stratification is completed so if test is positive no further action is required.

Even if the symptomatic person receives a negative result, the University has been proactive in completing contact tracing and disinfection. This mitigates potential delays in cleaning and exposure risk (perceived/actual) that would occur if we waited to disinfect until we were informed of a positive result. This approach assuages concerns and reduces the interest of others in testing results, thereby protecting medical confidentiality.

In the event of an outbreak if area closures are required, campus police will be advised to facilitate additional patrols, etc. Where possible, the building will be flushed for two days or as directed from local public health to maximize fresh air without compromising building temperature and humidity. Where flushing is not possible, operable windows nearest to the confirmed cases can be opened, weather permitting, for two days to increase fresh air. If neither the ventilation can be flushed and no operable windows are available in an enclosed office, open the door for two days to facilitate air flow. In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, unvaccinated and partially vaccinated staff and students are not be permitted in the outbreak area. For further questions, please contact EHS.

**Information to identify close contacts of positive/symptomatic individuals**

**High risk close contact** is when you are exposed to a person with COVID-19 while they were infectious (i.e., two days before their symptoms started or the test collection date, whichever is earliest). In this case, high risk exposure means any of the following:
- You spent 15 minutes less than 2 metres apart from this person without a medical mask or eye protection
- You had physical contact with this person (e.g. hugging)
- This person directly coughed or sneezed on you

For information about close contacts, please review this [infographic](#).

Those who are identified as close contacts are required to self-isolate (high-risk exposure) will receive guidance, contact tracing conducted, close contacts identified, and disinfection areas identified.

Close contacts of close contacts are advised to self-monitor for symptoms only. They are considered persons who have had transient interactions (see below).

**Those identified as having transient contact with a positive/symptomatic individual**

EHS provides “broader” info to those identified as having transient contact with a positive/symptomatic individual.

**Transient Contact** (low-risk exposure) is defined as:
- Had prolonged unprotected contact but only while the case was consistently physically distancing (e.g., attendees at a gathering, co-workers in a common work area).
- Only transient interactions (e.g., walking by the case or being briefly in the same room)

Those who are identified as having had transient contact are required to self-monitor (low-risk exposure), will receive general notice only. No further action.

**Additional considerations assessed when determining whether an individual is high risk (close contact) or low risk (transient interaction)**

As part of the individual risk assessment, consider:
- The duration and nature of the contact’s exposure (e.g., a longer exposure time/cumulative time of exposures likely increases the risk, an outdoor only exposure likely decreases the risk, whereas exposure in a small, closed, or poorly ventilated space may increase the risk)
- The case’s symptoms (coughing, severe illness likely increases exposure risk) and if personal protective equipment (e.g., procedure/surgical mask) was used.

To aid contact follow-up prioritization, prolonged exposure duration may be defined as more than 15 minutes; however, data are insufficient to precisely define the time that constitutes a prolonged exposure, and exposures of <15 minutes may be considered high risk exposures depending on the context of the exposure.

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Nov. 3, 2021