

PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED IF A POSITIVE COVID-19 RESULT IS OBTAINED BY A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER

What should I do if I test positive for COVID-19?

1. Any staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 must contact Human Resources at 042-9370223 to report their positive test result.
2. A student who tests positive for COVID-19 should contact the Student Health Unit at 0423970245.

Please note that this information will be treated confidentially.

When can a student or staff member return to campus after testing positive for Covid-19?

In line with public health guidelines a student or staff member may return to campus 10 days after the onset of their symptoms (or 10 days after a positive test where there were no symptoms) and have had no fever (high temperature) for 5 days in a row. A person may have a low-grade cough following COVID-19 infection that is due to lung hypersensitivity. This may persist for several weeks.

Please note if you have been referred for testing because you displayed COVID-19 symptoms you should not return to campus until 48 hours after these symptoms have gone.

What do you do if a student informs you that they have tested positive for COVID-19?

In the event that a student from DkIT tests positive for COVID-19, the HSE will contact the individual directly to inform them of the positive result and advise regarding further action.

However, if a student informs a staff member that they are COVID-19 positive note the following:

- Other colleagues should be informed that the student is absent as is the normal situation for a sickness absence. **It should not be disclosed that the student is COVID-19 positive, this is confidential personal medical information.**
- The student should be asked to fill out a CA Absence Form (if appropriate).
- The student should be advised to inform the Student Health Unit as outlined above.

What should I do if a colleague or student I have been in contact with tests positive?

If you are a close contact of a positive case the HSE Contact Tracing Centre will be in touch with you. If you have been fully vaccinated and are exhibiting no symptoms you will most likely not need to isolate and can come to campus as normal. If you are an unvaccinated close contact of a positive case then you will need to isolate for 14 days and will need to undergo PCR testing. You cannot come to campus during this time. HSE Contact Tracers will provide more information when they contact you. Every person must exercise personal responsibility and adhere to these requirements.

What is considered a close contact?

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) defines close contacts as follows:

- Greater than 15 minutes face-to-face (<2 metres) contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in any setting
- Household contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 (i.e. living or sleeping in the same home, individuals in shared accommodation sharing kitchen or bathroom facilities and sexual partners.
- Sharing a closed space, including a workspace, with a person infected with COVID-19 for longer than two hours – in this situation you MAY be considered a close contact.

What does contact tracing involve and what is the role of DkIT?

- HSE Public Health and/or HSE contact tracing teams follow up with confirmed cases of COVID-19 to identify their close contacts. **HSE Contact Tracing teams assume total control of the situation and will make contact with DkIT if necessary.**
- If the student was within the college setting when they contracted the virus, Public Health may contact DkIT to carry out a risk assessment and identify if the student had close contacts who may need to be tested. DkIT will have no function in the risk assessment other than to provide whatever information is required by the Public Health Medical Officer conducting the risk assessment.
- The Public Health Risk Assessment will see who might have been exposed to the virus and who needs to be excluded or tested. The risk assessment will consider multiple factors, including the occupancy of the room, size of the room, ventilation and the distance of each individual from the confirmed case.
- Close contacts will be contacted by the HSE and advised of appropriate action (i.e. restricted movements, COVID-19 testing).

What should I do if a colleague or student I have been in contact with is awaiting a test result?

You do not have to restrict your movements or isolate until such time as a positive diagnosis has been received.

Further Information:

- HSElive: 1850241850
- HSE advice changes on a regular basis so you should consult <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/> for access to the latest public health advice.