

COVID-19 Faculty FAQs

1. What should I do if a student contacts me and says they tested positive?
 - Please reassure the student that you will work with them so that they can continue with your class while they are in isolation (defined in #14 below).
 - Ask the student to fill out the [BHSU Student COVID-19 Reporting form](#).
 - If the student is concerned and wants to speak to someone, please let them know they can contact BHSU Health Services at 605-642-6520.
 - Do not share the student's name or condition with anyone else on campus – including your class.
 - If you were not in close contact (defined in #5 Below) with this student, please continue to hold class as usual unless otherwise directed. If you have any questions, please consult with your chair and dean.

2. What should I do if a student contacts me and says they've been asked by the South Dakota Department of Health to quarantine (defined in #8 below)?
 - Please reassure the student that you will work with them so that they can continue with your class while they are in quarantine.
 - Ask the student to fill out the [BHSU Student COVID-19 Reporting form](#).
 - Ask the student to monitor their symptoms and to contact BHSU Student Health Services if any should develop.
 - Do not share the student's name or condition with anyone else on campus – including your class.
 - Continue to hold class as usual unless otherwise directed. If you have any questions, please consult with your chair and dean.

3. What should I do if a student contacts me and says they've been exposed to someone who has tested positive or is presumed positive but hasn't been contacted by the South Dakota Department of Health?
 - Please advise the student to stay home (in quarantine) for 14 days from the day they last had contact.
 - Ask the student to fill out the [BHSU Student COVID-19 Reporting form](#).
 - Reassure the student that you will work with them so that they can continue with your class while they are in quarantine.
 - Ask the student to monitor their symptoms and to contact BHSU Student Health Services if any should develop.
 - Do not share the student's name or condition with anyone else on campus – including your class.
 - Continue to hold class as usual unless otherwise directed. If you have any questions, please consult with your chair and dean.

4. What is contact tracing?
 - Process undertaken by the South Dakota Department of Health to find people exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 so they can be quarantined to stop further spread. https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/COVID_contact_tracing.pdf
 - The South Dakota Department of Health may contact Phil Pesheck for help with contact tracing at BHSU.

5. What is close contact?
 - The CDC defines a close contact as “any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes cumulatively starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.”

6. Am I likely to contract COVID-19 from an infected individual in the same building where I work or from an infected student in my class?
 - 6-15-48 are your key numbers to determine likelihood of exposure. The CDC guidelines are that a person would need to be within 6 feet of an infected person, for 15 minutes or more, within 48 hours of the infected individual showing symptoms.

7. Am I still considered a close contact if I was wearing a mask?
 - Yes. According to the CDC, you are still considered a “close contact” even if you were wearing a mask while you were in close contact with someone with COVID-19. Masks are meant to protect other people in case you are infected, and not to protect you from becoming infected.

8. What is quarantine?
 - Quarantine is used to keep someone *who might have been exposed to COVID-19* away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms.
 - People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

9. Why do I need a seating chart for my classes?
 - The South Dakota Department of Health may contact BHSU for help with contact tracing. You may receive an email from Phil Pesheck asking for the seating chart for a class on a specific day. Please respond to Phil’s request as soon as possible.
 - Please keep daily attendance and seating records for each of your classes.

10. Do I need to quarantine if a student in my class tests positive for COVID-19?
 - No, not unless you are contacted by the South Dakota Department of Health or if you begin to develop symptoms.

11. Do I need to quarantine if a student in my class is asked by the South Dakota Department of Health to quarantine?
 - No, not unless you are contacted by the South Dakota Department of Health or if you begin to develop symptoms.

12. If a student lives with someone in isolation, does that student need to quarantine?
 - Yes, presumably if they live with the person who has tested positive, then they would have had close contact with that person.
 - Ask the student to fill out the [BHSU Student COVID-19 Reporting form](#).
 - Please advise them to monitor for symptoms.

13. If a student lives with someone who is in quarantine, does that student need to quarantine?
 - If the person the student lives with is NOT exhibiting symptoms, the student can go about their day-to-day business, does not need to be tested or monitored BUT should maintain social distance from the person in quarantine.
 - If the person the student lives with is exhibiting symptoms, even if that person has not yet tested positive for COVID-19, please advise the student to quarantine and/or contact BHSU Student Health Services with any questions.

14. What is isolation?
 - Isolation is used to separate people infected with COVID-19 from people who are not infected.
 - People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others. In the home, anyone sick or infected should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific "sick room" or area and using a separate bathroom (if available).

15. When a BHSU student tests positive where is the case "reported" by the South Dakota Department of Health?
 - If the student lives in Spearfish (on or off campus), even if they list a different "home-town" as their permanent address, the case will be reported as a Lawrence County case.
 - If a student lives in Rapid City and attends classes at BHSU-RC, the case will be reported as a Pennington County case.
 - Students who live elsewhere and commute to either campus/location will be reported in the county where they live.

16. How long will a student need to be in isolation if they test positive?
 - If a student doesn't have any symptoms, they will need to remain in isolation for 10 days.
 - If a student does have symptoms, they will remain in isolation for 10 days from the day their symptoms first appeared AND at least one day after they no longer have a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND until their symptoms improve.

17. How long will a student need to be in quarantine if they were in close contact with someone who tests positive?
 - Students will need to stay in quarantine for at least 14 days since the last exposure.

- If the student develops symptoms during the quarantine period they should be tested. If they test positive, then that student will begin a 10-day isolation period.
18. Where can I look to find information about COVID-19 cases and quarantines at BHSU?
- You can find this information on the [BHSU Current Case Dashboard](#). Keep in mind the design of the Dashboard is still being developed.
 - This information will be updated daily at approximately 8:00am.
19. Can a student test out of quarantine?
- No. If a student is quarantined because of close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, they remain in quarantine for the full 14 days even if they are tested and the test comes back negative.
20. How will BHSU know if one of their students has been released to return to class from isolation?
- Jane Klug receives a letter from the South Dakota Department of Health when students are released from isolation following a positive COVID-19 test.
 - Students who fill out a BHSU COVID-19 Reporting Form for either isolation or quarantine are tracked by Jane and/or Phil.
21. What should a BHSU faculty or staff member do if they either test positive or are a close contact to someone who tests positive?
- A faculty or staff member should contact Melissa Hart, Director of HR, at 642-6877.
 - Please do not use the BHSU Student COVID-19 Reporting Form. That form is intended for student reporting only.