

## COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

### Face Coverings:

- 1. Are Masks/ Face coverings required?** Yes, per MCCCCD Safety Requirements, the CDC and State & local Public Health guidelines, and the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors regulations (<https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/61311/Regulations-on-Face-Coverings>), face coverings are required on MCCCCD properties.
- 2. According to the ELC training, if someone wears an N95 mask, they have to fill out an additional document per OSHA with risk management. Is this true for N99 masks or other mask types that aren't specifically N95?** Yes. This is true for any “respirator” so long as the respirator is not required as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) under the OSHA 1910.134 Standard. N95, N99, N100, R95, R99, R100, P95, P99, and P100 are all classified as respirators. Dust masks, medical masks and the newly coined face coverings are not respirators and are not covered by OSHA’s Respiratory Program and therefore do not require the Voluntary Use of Respirator forms to be completed.
- 3. Can you please clarify, we have received information that if you are outside and social distancing, you do not have to have your mask on and just have it readily available. Is that true?** The information that you were given is not correct. It is not one or the other; BOTH are required, whether indoors or outdoors. However, there are two exceptions:
  1. If you are working alone in an office with the door closed (The mask may be removed once in the office but must be re-applied when someone comes to your office or if you leave the office for any reason).
  2. If you are working outdoors in a remote location, situated far from the main centers of population (this extends well beyond the six feet of separation) on campus alone. (Some examples include: PS performing patrols in a vehicle, cart or bicycle alone (does not apply to foot patrol) or a groundskeeper trimming shrubs at the edges of properties (does not apply to shrubs near walkways or occupied buildings in which someone may pass by). There are caveats to these exceptions, the employee must be working alone; they must have their face covering with them and they must store it properly when not in use; they must disinfect the vehicle/ equipment that they are using afterwards while donning the face covering.

The outdoor exception was included to limit heat-related illness for employees whose job duties require them to be outside during hot months. The exception is not a blanket exception for all employees.

- 4. Can I remove my face covering while working in my cubicle? The partitions are 6ft. tall.** No, even those cubicles with high walls do not effectively stop aerosolized droplets that are carried through the air because our ventilation systems are designed to circulate the air throughout the space. The ventilations systems are not powerful enough to draw the aerosolized droplets into the intakes but they do move the air around within the space.
- 5. I am not able to wear a face covering due to my health. If I am given an “accommodation” am I allowed to be in the office without one?** No, the accommodation is designed to provide

alternative options to someone who cannot wear a face covering, such as telework, leave, or even provide an office temporarily. Even if an office is provided, individuals still must wear the face covering when entering/exiting the building and, in all common areas including hallways, stairs, restrooms, breakrooms, classrooms, etc.

- 6. Can I use a face shield instead of a mask/face covering?** No, face shields, even those that extend below the chin and cover the sides of the face, do not provide the same level of protection that a mask or face covering provides. The aerosolized droplets are microscopic and can travel under or around the face shield. The CDC states: “It is not known if face shields provide any benefit as source control to protect others from the spray of respiratory particles. CDC does not recommend use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings”.
- 7. Who do I notify if employees or students are not wearing a face covering?** Each and every employee has the right and responsibility to ask another to properly (covering both the nose and mouth) wear their face covering, as well as maintaining 6 ft. of social distancing, while on MCCC property, if they refuse, do not engage the individual and report your concerns to your campuses/DO, COVID-19 liaison.
- 8. How do I store my reusable face covering when I am allowed to remove it? (e.g., while in my office alone)** The CDC recommends the following: Facemasks should be carefully folded so that the outer surface is held inward and against itself to reduce contact with the outer surface during storage. The folded mask can be stored between uses in a clean sealable paper bag or breathable container. Paper bags and breathable containers allow moisture to evaporate, whereas plastic bags trap the moisture inside which creates an ideal breeding conditions for germs, bacteria and viruses.

### Potential Exposure:

- 1. If I have had close contact with an individual who has close contact with someone with COVID-19, did I have a potential exposure and have to quarantine?** Typically, no. This is deemed a third-party exposure and so long as the “potentially exposed” individual is symptom-free the likelihood of a third-party exposure is minimal and even less if face covering and social distancing protocols were followed by all. If the “potentially exposed” individual is showing COVID-19 like symptoms, then you should self-quarantine.



- 2. Should I notify my staff/students that they have had a potential exposure if an individual notifies me that they have had a potential exposure?** No. This is categorized as a third-party exposure and has minimal risk. See the response to Question #1 under the Exposure section.

3. **I live with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19? Do I have to self-quarantine?** Yes. Not only do you need to self-quarantine and fill out the online potential exposure form, but the household member with COVID-19 must self-isolate. 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). (See question #2 under When can I Return...)
4. **Have I had a “potential exposure” just by passing someone in the hall, office, etc. if there is not 6 ft. of separation?** A potential exposure is defined as being within 6 ft. of a person with COVID-19 for greater than 10 minutes. Passing by another person occurs in only a few seconds and does not meet or exceed the timeframe criteria of having an exposure. Another crucial factor is that you are both wearing your face coverings which provides an additional layer of protection.

### **When can I return to Campus/DO?**

1. **I had a potential exposure and self-quarantined for 14 days. Do I need to get tested and have a negative result before I can return?** No, if you remained asymptomatic and have not had any additional exposure to someone with COVID-19 then you may return after the 14 day quarantine. MCCCDC is following the CDC and Maricopa County Public Health Departments recommendation for not requiring testing or a Dr’s. release as a prerequisite to returning to work/class.
2. **I live with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19? I have self-quarantined for 14 days, can I return to work/class?** There are four scenarios to take into consideration to determine when you can return. For all of the following scenarios, even if you test negative for COVID-19 or feel healthy, you should stay home (quarantine) since symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus.
  1. **Scenario 1:** (Close contact with someone who has COVID-19—will not have further close contact) – If you had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 and will not have further contact or interactions with the person while they are sick (e.g., co-worker, neighbor, or friend). **Your last day of quarantine is 14 days from the date you had close contact.**
  2. **Scenario 2:** (Close contact with someone who has COVID-19—live with the person but can avoid further close contact) I live with someone who has COVID-19 (e.g., roommate, partner, family member), and that person has isolated by staying in a separate bedroom. I have had no close contact with the person since they isolated. **Your last day of quarantine is 14 days from when the person with COVID-19 began home isolation.**
  3. **Scenario 3.** (Under quarantine and had additional close contact with someone who has COVID-19) I live with someone who has COVID-19 and started my 14-day quarantine period because we had close contact. What if I ended up having close contact with the person who is sick during my quarantine? What if another household member gets sick with COVID-19? Do I need to restart my quarantine? **Yes. You will have to restart your quarantine from the last day you had close contact with anyone in your house who**

**has COVID-19. Any time a new household member gets sick with COVID-19 and you had close contact, you will need to restart your quarantine.**

4. **Scenario 4:** (Live with someone who has COVID-19 and cannot avoid continued close contact) I live in a household where I cannot avoid close contact with the person who has COVID-19. I am providing direct care to the person who is sick, don't have a separate bedroom to isolate the person who is sick, or live in close quarters where I am unable to keep a physical distance of 6 feet. **You should avoid contact with others outside the home while the person is sick, and quarantine for 14 days after the person who has COVID-19 meets the criteria to end home isolation.**
3. **I tested positive for COVID-19 and I have self-isolated for 14 days. Can I return to work/class?**  
There are two scenarios that determine when you may return:
    1. You think you have (based on symptoms) or tested positive for COVID-19 and had symptoms, then you can return after
      - 3 days with no fever **and**
      - Respiratory symptoms have improved **and**
      - 10 days since symptoms first appeared.

**This means that you could return in as little as ten days, but all three criteria must be met.**

2. You tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms, then you can return:
  - 10 days have passed since test

**\*\*If you live with someone with COVID-19 or had any additional exposure to someone with COVID-19 since you self-isolated then you must also meet the criteria outlined in Question #2 under "When can I return to Campus/DO?"**

### **High Risk Employee or Students:**

1. **An employee came to me to let me know how uncomfortable he is at work. He has an underlying medical condition which puts him in the high-risk category. He is seeking guidance on his immediate options for leave as to not put himself at greater risk of contracting COVID. Can you please advise on how to proceed?** The employee should contact your Colleges HR department. The HR Department handles all accommodations and leave.

### **Students:**

1. **Is it correct that student's do not need to wear face coverings on campus?** No this is not correct. All person's that arrive to the Campus/DO must adhere to all COVID-19 procedures.
2. **Do students need to fill out the online reporting forms if they have had a potential exposure or if they have COVID-19?** Yes, per MCCC Safety Requirements all students and employees must report. If they are unable to submit the online form themselves then whomever the

student contacted can fill out the form on the student's behalf. Only answer the questions that you know the answers to.

3. **If a student informs their faculty of a potential exposure, does the class have to be cancelled for 2 weeks and do the other students/faculty have to self- quarantine?** Not necessarily. If the student that reports the potential exposure was/is asymptomatic of COVID-19 like symptoms, then no, the classes would not need to be cancelled and the other student's/faculty need not be informed or told to self-quarantine.
  
4. **If a student informs their instructor that they have tested positive for COVID-19 or are sick with COVID-19 like symptoms, does the class have to be cancelled for 2 weeks and do the other students have to self-quarantine for two weeks?** If the student attended classes within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms or a positive test, then yes. The class should be cancelled, those that were potentially exposed should be told to quarantine for 14 days, they should also be instructed to complete and submit the Potential Exposure online form and the Campus COVID-19 Liaison team should be notified.

### Travel:

1. **What is a “hotspot”? Where can I find information on what States are considered a hotspot?**  
A hotspot is an area or a region that is having an uptick in COVID-19 cases. You can find a map of current hotspots at <https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html#cases>. It is recommended that individuals considering travel contact the destination State to determine if that State has a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine period upon arrival.
2. **If an employee or student is travelling internationally, do they have to self-quarantine upon return?** Yes. The CDC is instructing international travelers to: Stay home for 14 days from the time you returned home from international travel. During this 14-day period, the individual should take these steps to monitor their health and practice social distancing:
  1. Take your temperature with a thermometer two times a day and monitor for fever. Also watch for cough or trouble breathing. Use a temperature log to monitor your temperature.
  2. Stay home and avoid contact with others. Do not go to work or school.
  3. Do not take public transportation, taxis, or ride-shares.
  4. Keep your distance from others (about 6 feet or 2 meters).

### Patient Protocols at Clinics:

1. **Do you know what our guidelines would be for patients who have active COVID or have tested positive? Would we use the same guidelines the district has set for employees? Do they stay home for 14 days after they tested positive before rescheduling appt.?** You are correct, the same guidelines that the district has for employees should also apply to students and patients. They should self-isolate, monitor their health and follow the guidelines that the CDC has outlined for “Discontinuing Self-Isolation”. The patient should not reschedule until they have met the criteria for discontinuing self-isolation.

### Reporting and Follow-up:

1. **Do students have to submit the online report if they have had a potential exposure or tested positive for COVID-19?** Yes. Students and employees both must submit the online reports. This enables MCCCDC to ensure the safety and health of others in the MCCCDC family.
2. **We were informed today that MCCCDC & Risk Management now only requires reporting and quarantine procedures for those employees that have a confirmed positive COVID-19 test. Employees are no longer required to report exposure or quarantine after confirmed exposure. Can you please confirm this? It seems strange considering the clear inconsistency with CDC guidelines. That is absolutely not true. All potential exposures **AND** confirmed cases must be reported via the online reporting mechanism.**

- 3. I have employee (or student) who informed me that they have COVID-19. Can I fill out the online reporting form for them?** Yes. If they are unable to fill out the form themselves, because they are too ill or do not have access then you may fill out the form. It is important that Risk Management receives their full name, ID number, telephone number and contact email. When filling out the form for the employee or student, only answer the questions that you know the answers and leave the others blank. Risk Management will follow-up to get the additional information. Please add your name and contact information in the comment box.

### Testing:

- 1. I had tested positive for COVID-19 and have self-quarantined for two weeks and I am not showing any COVID-19 symptoms. My Supervisor told me that I need proof that I am no longer COVID-19 positive before I can return to work. Can you advise?** First, I would like to clarify that if you tested positive for COVID-19, then you should self-isolate not self-quarantine. Isolating means that people infected with the virus (those who are sick with COVID-19 and those with no symptoms) have no contact with people who are not infected and isolate in a separate part of the home, use different bathrooms (if possible, eat separately etc. This goes well beyond 6 ft. social/ physical distancing.

As for “proof” of not having the Coronavirus, MCCCCD does not require testing for negative results nor a Doctor’s release/note that you are clear of the virus. The District is following the CDC guidelines and the Maricopa County Public Health Dept. guidelines both of which, do not recommend that an employer require proof, via testing or doctor’s release.

- 2. Do I need to have two negative test results to return to work/class?** No. MCCCCD does not require negative testing prior to the return to campus. The individual may return when they meet the criteria in Question #3 under “When can I return to Campus/DO?”

## Definitions:

1. **What is “close contact”?** Close contact is defined as being within 6 ft. of an individual for more than 10 minutes, per the Maricopa County Public Health, which MCCCCD has adopted.
2. **What is a potential exposure?** A potential exposure is defined as being within 6 ft. of a person with COVID-19 for greater than 10 minutes.
3. **What is the difference between quarantine and isolation?** Quarantine is used to instruct individuals that have been “potentially exposed” to someone with COVID-19 to stay away from other people. Isolation physically separates people who are infected with the virus away from people who are not infected; this includes household members.
4. **For clarity, can someone define visitor?** A visitor is someone outside of our current faculty, staff, and students. It could include vendors, contractors, potential students, etc. We can add this definition into the document for additional clarification.
5. **What is “Third Party Exposure”?** Third-party exposure is defined having close contact with someone that has had a “potential exposure” to someone with COVID-19.
6. **What is the difference between tracking and contact tracing?** Tracking is used by Risk Management to determine what MCCCCD areas/locations the confirmed COVID-19 individual was at while on-site, for enhanced cleaning & disinfecting and to identify & notify those that have been potentially exposed to the individual with COVID-19. Contact tracing is used by health departments (and now some testing companies) to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In general, contact tracing involves identifying people who have an infectious disease (cases) and people who they came in contact with (contacts).