

COVID-19 GRADUATE STUDENT POLICY

The School of Graduate Studies will be conducting Fall 2020 classes in-person utilizing appropriate social distancing in accordance with current guidelines from LSUHSC, the City of New Orleans, and the State of Louisiana. Due to the nature and size of some courses, remote learning may be utilized for portions of the instruction. Research is continuing at LSUHSC. Individual PIs are determining the specific details of work to be conducted and scheduling personnel to ensure appropriate social distancing. Individuals must wear a mask in all public spaces when on campus. Additionally, they should maintain at least six feet from other individuals, wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible, and avoid shaking hands. To protect your colleagues and staff at LSUHSC, do not come to campus if you test positive for SARS-CoV 2, have symptoms consistent with infection, or have had close contact with an infected individual. Full guidance for LSUHSC-NO can be found here: <https://911.lsuhs.edu/coronavirus/campus-guidelines.aspx>.

Antibody testing is being offered on campus. You will need to request an appointment at this link: <https://intranet.lsuhs.edu/covidtesting/>. You will be notified within 20 minutes to immediately return if your test was positive. You will be directed to the Secondary Testing area for a virus test.

Please also follow these guidelines:

**In all cases, complete the [LSUHSC self-reporting form](#), follow all [CDC guidance about household prevention](#), and notify your supervisor. Student Health will provide the necessary medical clearance to return to campus.*

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT SYMPTOMS, TESTING, ETC., CALL THE CAMPUS HEALTH CLINIC AT 478 SOUTH JOHNSON STREET (504-412-1995).

Exhibiting Symptoms

If students have symptoms consistent with SARS-CoV2 infection (including flu-like symptoms, loss of smell/taste, upper respiratory symptoms)

- Recommend self-isolation at home.
- Seek medical care if needed.
- Campus Health will recommend a COVID PCR test to confirm the diagnosis and initiate contact tracing to determine if there were moderate-to-high risk exposures to other campus personnel beginning 48 hours prior to symptom onset.
 - If test is negative or was not performed and there is low suspicion for COVID, return to campus when symptoms resolve.
 - If test is negative or was not performed and there is high suspicion for COVID, or if test is positive, then return to campus under these conditions:
 - At least 10 days since symptom onset, absence fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicines, and improvement of other symptoms
 - If hospitalized or immunocompromised, at least 20 days since symptom onset, absence of fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicines and improvement of other symptoms

Positive SARS-CoV2 PCR Test

If students test positive for SARS-CoV2

- Do not come to work; Restriction from campus is necessary.
- Campus Health or contact tracers will determine if there were moderate-to-high risk exposures to other campus personnel beginning 48 hours prior to the positive test. Moderate-to-high risk

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exposures include conversations at less than 6 feet distance for 15 minutes or longer regardless of mask use.

- Return to campus clearance will be in accordance with CDC guidelines:
 - At least 10 days after the positive test, provided the student/employee remains asymptomatic
 - If immunocompromised, at least 20 days after positive test, provided the student/employee remains asymptomatic

Close Contact Exposure

Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more regardless of mask use with someone who is positive for SARS-CoV2. If you fit this criteria:

- Remain home while monitoring symptoms.
- Recommend COVID PCR test.
 - If COVID PCR test is positive, follow management of positive test below
 - If COVID PCR test is negative, return to campus 14 days after last exposure if asymptomatic

Positive Antibody Test (Asymptomatic AND No Documented COVID History)

- Restrict from campus and recommend self-isolation at home
- Clarify date of positive antibody test
- Return to campus clearance
 - Five days after positive antibody test, provided the student/employee remains asymptomatic (regardless of whether a follow up COVID test is negative or positive)

If you have any additional health concerns, please discuss your individual circumstances with your PI or academic advisor.

If there are any specific situations where students feel vulnerable due to work demands, please do not hesitate to contact the Graduate Studies office: Leigh Smith-Vaniz or Dr. Amedee. We are happy to discuss individual circumstances confidentially.