

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education (ACHE)	COVID-19 Exposure & Response Protocol

Protocol Statement

It is the policy of ACHE to follow safety precautions related to COVID-19, including recommendations from state and federal health agencies. To that end, this protocol outlines the process to be followed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chief Executive Officer and the President of ACHE have the delegated authority to amend this policy as deemed necessary or appropriate based on changes in guidance from local, state, and national authorities, including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Protocol Applications/Purpose

To give direction for the management of cases, and close exposures to cases, of COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 involving students, faculty and staff at the ACHE campus.

Definitions

Case Classifications

Probable case:

- a. meets clinical criteria and epidemiologic evidence with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID-19;
- b. meets presumptive laboratory evidence AND either clinical criteria OR epidemiologic evidence; or
- c. meets vital records criteria with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID-19.

Definitive COVID-19 case: (whether symptomatic or asymptomatic)

- a. Positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR RNA test
- OR**
- b. Positive rapid SARS-CoV-2 screen (antigen test)

Exposure Definitions

- a. Close contact exposure to a COVID-19 case is exposure that occurs within fewer than 6-feet away for ≥15 minutes, even when face masks are worn;
- OR**
- b. Household exposure to a COVID-19 case is exposure to a family member, a roommate, or any other person who lives or visits in your house who is found to have COVID-19.

Protocols for COVID-19 Suspected Case, Definitive Case or Exposure Response

A. COVID-19 SUSPECTED OR DEFINITE CASE RESPONSE

1. If you become ill while you are in an ACHE building, leave the facility immediately, using the most minimal contact with facility surfaces and personnel possible, and seek medical care. As an added safeguard during the pandemic, medical documentation **will** be required indicating your clearance to return to work/learning activity which could include a negative COVID-19 diagnosis or other medical documentation.
2. On diagnosis of definitive COVID-19, immediately self-quarantine, do not enter ACHE buildings. Seek medical consultation if you have not already done so (If you do not have a medical provider contact Mercy Clinic at 479-431-3500 or Baptist Clinic at 479-414-4000 to find a provider).
3. Notify the Office of Student Affairs (for students), or the Office of Human Resources and your immediate supervisor by phone as soon as possible and provide them with documentation of guidance from your health care provider.

Return to ACHE Criteria for Confirmed COVID-19 (based on CDC guidance)

- a) **Permission for return must be obtained from the Office of Student Affairs (for students) or Office of Human Resources and immediate supervisor.**
- b) **Documentation may be required indicating your clearance to return to work / school date.**

B. COVID-19 EXPOSURE RESPONSE

1. With a close contact or household exposure to a COVID-19 patient (please see close contact and household exposure definitions above), or being told you had a significant close contact exposure by the Office of Student Affairs (for students) or the Office of Human Resources (for employees), then immediately self-quarantine, do not enter ACHE buildings, and seek medical guidance from your healthcare provider.
2. Notify the Office of Student Affairs (for students) or Office of Human Resources and your immediate supervisor by phone as soon as possible. Provide documentation from your health care provider as soon as you receive it. Documentation may be required indicating your clearance to return to work/school date.
3. During quarantine you should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 (see list of suspicious symptoms below), and if they develop you should notify your medical provider for evaluation and testing. If you do not have a medical provider, then contact either Mercy Clinic at 479-431-3500 or Baptist Clinic at 479-441-4000 to obtain a medical provider. Permission for return to campus must be obtained from the Office of Student Affairs (for students) and the Office of Human Resources (for employees). Each office will review the documentation provided by your health care provider to determine your ability to return to campus.

COVID-19 Symptoms: COVID-19 infection may be asymptomatic. The symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19 tend to appear 2-14 days after exposure and, as per the CDC, can include:

- a. Fever or chills
- b. Cough or shortness of breath
- c. Fatigue
- d. Muscle aches
- e. Headache
- f. New loss of taste or smell

- g. Sore throat
- h. Nasal congestion or a runny nose
- i. Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

Approved: 8/22/2020	Revised: New
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