



COVID-19 Positive Test or Presumed Positive Response Protocol

The University has adopted this protocol to comply with applicable state and local public health orders and to be consistent with applicable federal and state guidance. The Provost's Office may issue updated protocols, which become effective upon adoption, to respond to changes in state and local public health orders, to be consistent with new federal and state guidance, and/or to adapt to changing conditions on campus. Please watch for updates to these protocols and regularly check the [DU COVID-19 website](#) for news and other important information.

University of Denver COVID-19 Positive Test or Presumed Positive Response

University of Denver (DU) faculty, staff, other personnel, students and especially supervisors must follow the COVID-19 requirements set forth below for returning to campus for work or to attend classes in person after having a positive COVID-19 test result. You must not return to campus until you have received a formal acknowledgment letter from the Deputized Reporter or their designee within your medical record (myhealth.du.edu).

Self-reporting Positive Test or Presumed Positive Diagnosis.

Any DU faculty, staff, other personnel, or student who has received a positive test result or who has been diagnosed by a medical provider as presumed positive for COVID-19 should report this immediately to reportCOVID@du.edu or via phone or text at 303-871-COVID (2683). Prompt reporting is critical for activating the COVID-19 Response Team to rapidly and successfully conduct manual contact tracing. The Deputized Reporter will review the need for individuals to self-isolate and remain off-campus or for those who live in DU-owned or operated residence halls and apartments; fraternity or sorority houses, whether or not DU-owned or operated) to isolate on campus.

Positive On-Campus Surveillance or Diagnostic Test Result

A positive test result for any DU faculty, staff, other personnel, or student who has undergone SARS-CoV-2 testing on-campus will be promptly reported to the DU COVID hotline for timely action by the COVID-19 Response Team. For positive results from nasal PCR or DU saliva PCR tests, the individual must begin isolation immediately upon being notified of the positive result. For positive results from on-campus antigen tests, the individual must self-quarantine until they receive a diagnostic result from a PCR test. The COVID-19 Response Team will perform contact tracing as described below for positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR results. Individuals who receive positive results from any antigen surveillance test must undergo a follow-up PCR test, and the results of this PCR test will determine the next steps.

COVID-19 Response Team

The COVID-19 Response Team (CRT) handles the University response to notifications of positive diagnostic and surveillance COVID-19 tests, outbreaks, and identification of connected case from symptom tracking. The CRT implements response protocols based on the best available information, informs and recommends rapid response to the senior leadership team to address serious and emergent issues, and develops procedures and protocols to address operational gaps as identified. The CRT manages all aspects of the contact tracing and symptom monitoring process, is charged with reporting findings to the public health authorities, notifies individuals who were in close contact with those who have tested positive or been diagnosed as positive, imposes quarantine/isolation of a student, faculty, staff member or other personnel, and recommends or implements building disinfection, closure and/or space modification if warranted. Because the CRT has access to personal health information, every team member is trained to maintain confidentiality of personal health information and has signed confidentiality agreements.

The COVID-19 Response Team is composed of DU employees with designated authority to provide rapid mobilization. The team consists of lead representatives in key roles to promote compliance with regulations, public health orders, and university policy; prioritize the health and safety of the community; balance the competing needs of the DU community; and maximize the University's resources. Currently, the team includes the COVID Coordinator or designee (a DU faculty member), the State Deputized Reporter (DU Director of Environmental Health and Safety), the SPIT testing program and SPIT lab leads, a medical expert (from DU's Health & Counseling Center), a facilities expert (Custodial and/or Building Management) and a representative from the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion. Additional members on-call when appropriate include Student Affairs and Inclusive Excellence, Housing and Residential Education, Campus Safety, Human Resources, and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

The COVID Coordinator or designee leads the team's response, manages institutional communications, and coordinates recommendations from the CRT to the senior leadership team. Consistent with state and local public health guidance, the Deputized Reporter is the institutional lead for contact tracing and regulatory response. Facilities leads building disinfection, closure and space modification. Medical experts consult on possible risk to the individual and their contacts. Housing and Student Life leads student quarantine and isolation, and Human Resources leads interactions with employees. Should academic concerns arise, the team would consult with the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. Most often, the Deputized Reporter and COVID Coordinator support all aspects of the response and work closely together. Under the direction of the Deputized Reporter, additional trained contact tracers may assist with interviews of and follow-ups with individuals who test or are diagnosed as positive and potentially exposed individuals. All key roles have designated backup personnel to support smooth University functioning.

Contact Tracing

Information gathered during this process includes: name, date of birth, job title, DU ID number, email address, phone number, address, date of positive test, first day of symptoms, last day on campus, buildings and rooms occupied while on campus, among other details. In each instance, interviews and follow-up conversations determine when and where the person who had tested positive or was presumed positive for COVID-19 had been on campus, with whom they might have come into contact, whether that contact included physical proximity of within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes cumulative over 24 hours, and whether the parties were wearing face coverings. The contact tracing team will also look at the vaccination status of all individuals listed as close contacts to determine quarantine requirements.

Notification and Closure Response

Using contact tracing data, the COVID-19 Response Team will determine who has been in the vicinity or close contact with the positive or presumed positive individual. Close contact requires both duration and proximity sufficient to represent a greater than minimal risk. The Deputized Reporter or their designee will call these people to discuss the possible contact and to provide them with information regarding the need to self-isolate/quarantine and stay off campus. As needed, Human Resources, Student Affairs and Inclusive Excellence team via the Health and Counseling Center (HCC), and academic resources under the direction of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs will provide additional individualized support.

Based on the last day that the positive or presumed positive individual was on campus and the operational status of the building(s) they visited, the CRT will identify spaces for disinfection. The CRT will determine which spaces fall into which cleaning category and assign the appropriate disinfection response. For areas that the CRT determines may be contaminated and in need of level three decontamination, the spaces could remain closed for 24 hours to allow aerosols to settle prior to [cleaning and disinfection](#) if deemed necessary. Depending on the type of disinfection technology employed, the space will reopen 3 to 24 hours after decontamination is complete.

Returning to Campus after a Positive Test or Presumed Positive Diagnosis

To return to campus after a positive test for or presumed positive diagnosis of COVID-19, the University of Denver follows [CDC guidance](#) and medical provider/public health recommendations. The University may require written documentation from an individual’s medical provider or the applicable public health authority identifying the date of testing or the date of onset of symptoms. The CDC recommends symptomatic individuals can resume interaction with others after 24 hours with no fever (without medication to reduce a fever), other symptoms are improving, and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. Asymptomatic individuals who had a positive test can resume interactions with others 10 days after the date of the positive test.

Although members of the DU community may be concerned about the return to campus of an individual who previously tested positive for COVID-19, if the public health guidance supports that the individual can end isolation, the University will follow medical/public health guidance.

Exposure to an Individual who Tested Positive

Individuals must report being in close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19, to reportCOVID@du.edu. The University requires anyone who is a close contact (physical proximity of within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes cumulatively over 24 hours) to quarantine and not come to campus for 14 days (or the time specified the quarantine management plan). The University has developed a quarantine management plan consistent with [CDC guidelines](#) and the recognition that symptoms of COVID-19 can appear from 2 to 14 days after exposure. The full protocol can be found [here](#).

COVID Response & Isolation

