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UPDATES ON COVID-19 PROCESSES AND POLICIES

We provide this updated guidance for the King's College community based on continuous information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the PA Department of Health (PA DOH), and the Wilkes-Barre City Health Department related to isolation, quarantine, and testing recommendations for COVID-19.

Please continue to monitor the College's COVID-19 webpage at <https://www.kings.edu/mykings/covid-19-information>.

A. GUIDELINES FOR UNVACCINATED AND PARTIALLY-VACCINATED STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

1. **Unvaccinated and Partially-Vaccinated Individuals Who are Considered a Close Contact**
 - a. A person is designated to be a "close contact" of a COVID-19 positive person if they have been within six (6) feet of the person for more than 15 minutes over the course of 24 hours.
 - b. Actions to take if you have been within close contact of a COVID-19 positive person:
 - i. Quarantine immediately upon notification of close contact status and observe for development of symptoms.
 - ii. If you develop symptoms, obtain a COVID test immediately.
 - iii. If you remain asymptomatic, get tested for COVID-19 at five (5) days after the close contact exposure.
 - iv. If you COVID test negative at Day 5 and remain asymptomatic, you are released from quarantine after Day 7.
2. **Unvaccinated and Partially-Vaccinated Individuals Who Test Positive**
 - a. Isolate for five (5) days after a positive test result or after the first day of symptom appearance, whichever happens earlier.
 - b. Report your positive test result to the Student Health Center (for students) or to Human Resources (for employees) as soon as possible.
 - c. Cooperate with College representatives.
 - d. You may return to normal activities when:
 - i. Five (5) days have passed since the positive test result or the first day of symptom appearance, whichever happens earlier; AND
 - ii. All serious COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., fever) have been gone for at least 24 hours without the use of antipyretics (e.g., ibuprofen). Some symptoms of COVID-19 can linger (e.g., cough), but these symptoms do not necessarily indicate the person is contagious;
 - iii. Continue to observe guidelines and protocols, wear a mask at all times, and attempt physical distancing for an additional five (5) days.
 - iv. The Student Health Center (SHC) staff provides approval for release from isolation for return to class (for students).

- e. *Important note for faculty and staff:* Any student who has recently tested positive for COVID-19 and who has been allowed to return to class is considered no longer contagious according to CDC and PA DOH guidelines, regardless of any lingering symptoms.

3. Testing Requirements for Unvaccinated and Partially-Vaccinated Individuals

- a. You are required to participate in weekly COVID-19 surveillance testing.
 - i. Students and employees may participate in the free testing provided by the College each week in the Auxiliary Gym; or
 - ii. Submit proof of a negative COVID-19 test from an outside entity. Students must send their test results to studenthealth@kings.edu and employees must submit their test results to hr@kings.edu. The test results submission should clearly show: (1) the person's full name; (2) the date the test was administered; and (3) the result.
- b. Please schedule your weekly appointment through the Bookings link that is sent to your Monarch/King's College email account each week.

B. GUIDELINES FOR FULLY-VACCINATED STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

1. Fully-Vaccinated Individuals Who are Considered a Close Contact

- a. A person is designated to be a "close contact" of a COVID-19 positive person if they have been within six (6) feet of the person for more than 15 minutes over the course of 24 hours.
- b. Actions to take if you have been within close contact of a COVID-19 positive person:
 - i. For those who are eligible* and have not obtained a booster dose, quarantine for five (5) days and get tested for COVID-19 at Day 5 after the close contact exposure;
 - ii. Mask indoors for 10 days and avoid large crowds; and
 - iii. Take standard precautions, such as consistent handwashing and practicing social distancing.
 - iv. For those who have obtained a booster dose, you do not need to quarantine unless:
 - 1. You are symptomatic, or
 - 2. You test positive (and in that event you must isolate).

- C. Eligible for booster vaccine. Pfizer – five (5) months after second dose, Moderna – six (6) months after second dose, J&J – two (2) months after first dose with an mRNA vaccine such as Pfizer or Moderna.

2. Fully-Vaccinated Individuals Who Test Positive

- a. Isolate for five (5) days after a positive test result or first day of symptom appearance, whichever happens earlier.
- b. Report your positive test to the SHC (for students) or to Human Resources (for employees) as soon as possible.
- c. Cooperate with College representatives for contact tracing.
- d. You may return to normal activities when:
 - i. Five (5) days have passed since the positive test result or the first day of symptom appearance, whichever happens earlier; AND
 - ii. All serious COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., fever) have been gone for at least 24 hours without the use of antipyretics (e.g., ibuprofen). Some symptoms of COVID-19 can linger (e.g., cough), but these symptoms do not necessarily indicate the person is contagious; and
 - iii. The SHC staff provides approval for release from isolation for return to class (for students).

- e. *Important note for faculty and staff:* Any student who has recently tested positive for COVID-19 and who has been allowed to return to class is considered no longer contagious according to CDC and PA DOH guidelines, regardless of any lingering symptoms.

3. Testing for Vaccinated Individuals

- a. Random surveillance testing may be required for vaccinated persons who are eligible for but have not yet received a booster. This will depend on COVID prevalence in the Spring Semester 2022 and is subject to change at any time.
- b. Asymptomatic students and employees may voluntarily participate in COVID-19 surveillance testing, which is held each week in the Auxiliary Gym. If interested, please schedule an appointment through the Bookings link that is sent to your Monarch/King's College email account each week
- c. At this time, only symptomatic students or individuals who are part of an investigation are being tested for COVID-19 in the SHC. Although we administer courtesy tests for employees on occasion, during active investigations we are not able to accommodate the unrelated requests for courtesy tests from employees. Please contact Human Resources for guidance and support.

C. CONTACT TRACING NOTES

- 1. For faculty and staff, please submit your classroom rosters as directed by Dr. Joseph Evan.
- 2. As a reminder, a person is deemed to be a "close contact" of a COVID-19 positive person if they were within 6 feet of the person for more than 15 minutes within a 24-hour period.
- 3. Classrooms and laboratories are not AUTOMATICALLY considered close contacts for all in the room. Seating charts and enhanced awareness of groupings are important to assist with contact tracing in a classroom and other learning space.

CI. PROCESS FOR SYMPTOMATIC STUDENTS

1. If a student feels sick, they should STAY HOME

- a. Students who STAY HOME should call the SHC at 570-208-5852 to partake in phone triage by a SHC professional.
- b. The SHC staff provides suggestions based on a student's answers to an extensive list of questions. Suggestions include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - i. Face-to-face evaluation in the SHC for possible COVID-19 test or other point of care test such as strep, mono, or flu. Not all illnesses are COVID-19. The timing of any diagnostic test is important to decrease the chance of early false negatives.
 - ii. Students may be considered persons under investigation (PUI) and placed in temporary quarantine based on their symptom presentation, timing of rapid diagnostic test, need for higher level lab test, their vaccination status, and the COVID situation on and around campus.
 - iii. Students should monitor and treat symptoms with over-the-counter medications. A SHC staff member will contact the student via phone or email in 24-48 hours to assess the need for face-to-face evaluation and/or testing.
 - iv. Commuter students may be advised to follow-up with their Primary Care Physician (PCP).
 - v. If the symptoms go away and it has been determined that the student does not have COVID-19, they can resume normal activities. If the symptoms stay the same or get worse, the student is asked to contact the SHC or their PCP for further evaluation.

2. Important note for faculty and staff

- a. Any student who contacts you and says they are ill should be advised to contact the SHC at 570-208-5852 for consultation immediately.
- b. Whether a student contacts the SHC or not, if symptoms go away or are attributed to a different illness in a short period of time then the student has no restriction placed on them.

E. COMPLIANCE NOTES

1. The College has clearly and consistently communicated to students and employees each of our responsibilities in connection with mitigating the spread of COVID-19 on our campus and in our community. Each of us bears responsibility for doing our part for the protection of others.
2. All students and employees are required to submit either proof of vaccination and booster or an informed consent waiver. Failure to comply with this requirement can result in a variety of disciplinary measures, including but not limited to disqualification from participating in College activities, including classes or any other on-campus activities or events.
3. In the interest of the campus community's health and well-being, students and employees must participate in certain activities, including regular and add on surveillance testing, and submission of a negative COVID entry test upon return to campus for Spring 2022. Failure to comply with this requirement can result in a variety of disciplinary measures, including but not limited to disqualification from participating in College activities, including classes or any other on-campus activities or events.