

UCA CONTACT TRACING AND NOTIFICATION PROTOCOL

Each positive case of COVID-19 on campus will be quickly investigated by the UCA contact tracing team. After the investigation occurs, each student is emailed an isolation letter from the Student Health Clinic (SHC) with Dr. Randy Pastor's signature on it. This not only verifies their isolation status but also indicates that they have been interviewed for a list of their close contacts by the SHC contact tracing team.

A student who does not have a letter from SHC may not have been investigated by the SHC tracing team. If a student reports a positive test but does not have the letter, email covid19@uca.edu so the SHC can confirm the student's contacts have been investigated.

After the contact tracing investigation, only those individuals who meet the criteria of a "close contact," as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Arkansas Department of Health (ADH,) will be called and placed in mandatory quarantine. If these individuals are students, they will also receive a letter, signed by Dr. Pastor, from the SHC verifying their quarantine status. If these individuals identified as contacts include an instructor or staff member, the individual will be called and placed in quarantine like any other individual who comes in close contact with a positive case of COVID-19.

If during the case investigation, the case investigator has concerns of the validity or accuracy of the positive case's history, or if the positive case cannot remember the details accurately, the instructor of the class in question will be called and notified of the concern. The instructor will then be asked to contribute to the pertinent history related to their class and the positive case. **This will only occur if there is a need for an expanded investigation.** If all of the details are clearly identified with accuracy and true close contacts are identified without difficulty or discrepancies, and if the case investigator clearly confirms that proper distancing was maintained throughout the class, the instructor will not be contacted or notified of the positive case by the case investigator. The same process will be applied for student workers and UCA staff members in the student's workplace.

When adhering closely to the definitions and proven protocols, this process has been substantiated over many decades to be very effective in mitigating and limiting the spread of transmittable diseases. However, going beyond these proven protocols both lacks effectiveness and serves to create needless anxiety. Notifying people in a classroom that "someone in your classroom tested positive" is not recommended by the ADH and is not practiced or encouraged by the CDC.

By explaining the process implemented through the SHC, we hope to offer some reassurance to faculty and staff that if they do not get call from the UCA contact tracing team and the student can produce the letter from the SHC, they are at no higher risk of catching COVID19 from the positive case that attended their class or worked in their space than from anyone else in the general population.

Thank you for your understanding and for caring about the safety of our students, faculty, and staff.

Prepared and submitted by Dr. Randy Pastor, Medical Director UCA Student Health Clinic