

College of Natural Sciences

Protocol for Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 | Spring 2020

If someone in your lab or office is symptomatic:

- Put a quarantine notice on the door of the lab and notify others not to enter.
- Require the individual experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness to immediately call the following:
 - Students call University Health Services (UHS) Nurse Advice Line at 512-475-6877.
 - Staff and faculty may contact the 24/7 Nurseline provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield at 888-315-9473 or seek care from UT Health Austin or their personal healthcare provider.
- Ask individual experiencing symptoms to notify Kimberly Craig RN in UT Occupational Health: kimberly.criag@austin.utexas.edu.
- Call [Environmental Health and Safety \(EHS\)](#) at 512-471-3511 and let them know about the quarantine. They will discuss the urgency of re-entry with you. Based on that, they will provide direct assistance and any necessary equipment/supplies to help you decontaminate the lab. ([ehs.utexas.edu](#))
- Look at the sign-in sheet and notify relevant individuals that the space is temporarily closed and they should begin self-monitoring.
- To the extent that you are able, please respect confidentiality of (potentially) infected individual.
- Notify your Department Chair.
- Department Chairs should notify the Dean's Office.

If someone in your lab or office tests positive for COVID-19:

- Follow all above steps.
- Look at the sign-in sheet and notify relevant individuals that they should self-isolate for 14 days.
- Notify your Department Chair that suspected case is now confirmed positive.
- Department Chairs should notify the Dean's Office.

COVID-19 Symptoms

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) believes at this time that symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. Symptoms may be flu-like, ranging from mild to serious, and include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing

Self-Monitoring

- Take temperature twice daily for two weeks.
- Remain alert for cough or difficulty breathing

- If you feel feverish or develop measured fever, cough or difficulty breathing during the self-monitoring period, you should self-isolate immediately.

Self-Isolating

- Limit contact with others
- Immediately seek advice by telephone from a healthcare provider

Definitions of Primary and Secondary contacts:

- A primary contact comes in direct contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. The CDC recommendation is self-isolation.
- A secondary contact is someone who has come in direct contact with a primary contact. The CDC recommendation is self-monitoring.

Resources:

- UT Austin Corona Virus Protocol:
<https://healthyhorns.utexas.edu/coronavirus.html#collapseTwo>
- Center for Disease Control:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/transmission.html>