I’ve Been in Close Contact with Someone Who Tested Positive for COVID-19

For Employees:

WPI’s plans for campus social distancing should greatly minimize the number of close contacts that any positive cases have. It helps to know exactly what “close contact” is and what happens if you’ve been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19. Find more information on the Health and Safety pages. If you have been notified you are a close contact, do not come to campus for any reason. Do not go to Harrington Auditorium for a test. Fill out the Symptom Tracker and contact your primary care physician for testing options.

WHAT IS CLOSE CONTACT?

A CDC-DEFINED CLOSE CONTACT IS SOMEONE WHO …

- is living in the same household as a person who tested positive for COVID-19 or caring for a person who tested positive for COVID-19,
- has been within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 for a cumulative time period of 15 minutes or more (even if everyone is wearing a face covering) over a 24-hour period,
- has come into direct contact with secretions (e.g., sharing utensils, being coughed on) from a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, or
- has been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by a medical professional or a public health official.

CLOSE CONTACT IS NOT …

- being in the same classroom or office space while following safety protocols for face coverings and distancing
- being in front of someone in a socially distanced line
- passing someone in the hallway while wearing a face covering

IF YOU THINK YOU’VE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT AT WORK …

- WPI will notify the Worcester Board of Health and work with them to trace likely contacts on campus.
- you’ll be contacted if you’re considered a close contact.
- you’ll be required to stay home, fill out the symptom tracker, monitor your health, and not report to work, classes, or activities on campus.
- if you’re identified as a close contact, you will be required to quarantine according to Massachusetts guidelines.
- you are advised to contact your healthcare provider or Tufts Virtual Health Services (for Tufts Health Plan members) upon receiving a positive COVID-19 test result or being informed that you are a close contact.
- you’ll complete your quarantine period based on these guidelines after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19
  - in 7 days if you have had no symptoms and have tested negative on day 5 or later.
  - in 10 days if you have had no symptoms.
  - in 14 days if you experienced any symptoms.
- present information to the Testing Coordinator that you have completed your quarantine period with no symptoms arising for clearance to return to work and have the Testing Coordinator clear your return to work in accordance with WPI’s guidelines and current CDC guidelines.

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