For Students:

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

WHAT IS CLOSE CONTACT?

YOU ARE A CDC-DEFINED CLOSE CONTACT IF YOU…

• are 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,
• have 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,
• have come into direct contact with secretions (e.g., sharing utensils, being coughed on) from a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, or
• have been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by a medical professional or a public health official.

YOU ARE NOT CLOSE CONTACT IF …

• You've been in the same classroom or office with a person while social distancing and wearing face coverings.
• You've been in front of someone in a socially distanced line.
• You've passed someone in the hallway while wearing a face covering.

IF YOU THINK YOU’VE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT …

• Stay calm and report your suspected contact using the Symptom Tracker feature in the WPI app, in Power Apps, or on the We Are WPI website.
• WPI will notify the Worcester Board of Health and help identify your likely close contacts on campus.
• Continue to practice good health habits: wear your face covering, wash your hands frequently, practice social distancing.

IF YOU’RE NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE HAD CLOSE CONTACT …

• You and any roommates will be required to quarantine for 14 days. You can go home to quarantine or stay in your campus housing.
• You will be tested for COVID-19 through WPI Health Services.
• Meals will be delivered to you.
• Health Services workers will regularly check in with you.
• You will monitor your health and not go to classes or activities. Depending on how you feel, you can take classes remotely.
• You will stay in your residence hall room except to go to the bathroom. While out of your room, wear a mask, wash your hands, and practice social distancing.
• You’ll work with Health Services to create a safe return-to-campus plan. You likely can return to campus 15 days after your exposure if you have no symptoms and you do not test positive.
• Continue to practice good health habits: wear your face covering, wash your hands frequently, practice social distancing.

WPI’s plans for social distancing on campus should minimize the number of close contacts associated with any person who tests positive. However, 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.

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