Quarantine/Positive Test Guidelines and Communication Protocols

Quarantine and Isolation Protocols

M State will be following the guidance of the Minnesota Department of Health relative to how we handle positive test results and isolation and quarantine expectations for employees and students. The current requirements as set forth by the Minnesota Department of Health are:

* If a student or employee has a confirmed positive test result, regardless of vaccination status, you are required to:
* Stay home (isolate) for 5 days.
* If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can return to campus.
* Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

*If you have a fever, continue to isolate until your fever resolves.*

* If an **employee or student** is identified as a “Close Contact” or “Exposed Contact” they must follow the quarantine guidelines below.

If you:

* Received your booster shot;

OR

* Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 5 months;

OR

* Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

You must:

* Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
* Test on day 5, if possible.

If you:

* Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 5 months ago and are not boosted

OR

* Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted

OR

* Are unvaccinated

You must:

* Stay home (quarantine) for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
* Test on day 5 if possible.

Wearing a mask does NOT eliminate quarantine requirements.

If you develop symptoms get tested and isolate until you know the results.

MDH and Center for Disease Control (CDC) have defined a close contact or exposed contact as being within 6 feet of a positive case for 15 cumulative minutes over a 24-hour period.

Based on the Minnesota Department of Heath guidelines, employees or students that are NOT identified as “close contact” or “exposed contact” of a positive case but are within the same classroom or work area do not need to quarantine but should continue to monitor themselves for symptoms. If they develop symptoms they should immediately quarantine and contact their medical provider for further guidance.

Contact and Communications Protocols

The Minnesota Department of Health has a team set up to communicate positive test results and complete contact tracing. They have the responsibility in the case and contact tracing and are assisted by the County Department of Health.

When an individual’s test result comes back positive, the contact team will interview the individual to determine who needs to be considered a close contact. The individual will also be asked if they attend a college or university and if their name can be shared to assist with the contact tracing. If the case load becomes very high, the college may also be asked to assist with contact tracing.

The goal of the Minnesota Department of Health is to contact the positive individual, any close contacts, and the college all with 24 hours of the test result being determined.

Pat Nordick has been designated as the college contact with Minnesota Department of Health, and related county health departments.

When he is notified by MDH or the County Public Health of a positive case, he will set off our internal processes for notifying employees and/or students that may have been in close proximity of the positive case. We will be in contact with the employee or student to learn more about when and where they have been on campus and take appropriate action to notify those individuals that are affected.

If you as an employee either test positive or are contacted by either the Minnesota Department of Health or the County Health Department that you have been identified as a close contact to a positive case we ask that you notify Dacia Johnson as well as your supervisor. In addition, if you are advised by your healthcare provider to isolate or quarantine please follow their professional advice. Dacia will contact you to get more information to assist us with any internal notifications we will need to make to other employees and/or students. With that information, we will work through our process of notifications.

If you get contacted by a student that they have tested positive or have been identified as a close contact and need to quarantine by the Minnesota Department of Health or the County Health Department, please forward that information immediately to Pat Nordick and he will start the internal process of communication. **Please forward the information regardless if the student is on campus or 100% online.**

We will not receive notifications for employees or students living in North Dakota so we will be relying on the individuals themselves to let us know if they tested positive or need to quarantine. Again, if you receive notice from an employee or student please notify him so that we can start our internal process.