Exposures, Quarantine and Isolation FAQs

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

What is the isolation policy if I test positive?
The isolation requirement for those who test positive for COVID remains unchanged relative to last year. If you test positive for COVID-19, regardless of your vaccination status, you will be directed by a legal order from the Onondaga County Health Department to isolate for a period of 10 days. Similar to last year, ESF is fully prepared to provide isolation housing for students living on campus, and for those who cannot safely isolate in their off-campus apartments. If needed, transportation can be provided to Shapero Hall at Onondaga Community College.

What do I do if I am exposed to a COVID positive individual?
Importantly, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Onondaga County Health Department’s quarantine requirements for vaccinated persons exposed to a COVID positive individual have changed relative to last year. Those quarantine guidelines for vaccinated individuals are as follows:

- **Vaccinated but no symptoms of illness (asymptomatic):**
  If you have come into close contact (as determined by a contact tracer), you must test 5-7 days after your last exposure (and wear a mask until your test results are available). If you continue be a close contact of a case, you must follow the instructions of your contact tracer. Per CDC Guidelines, you do not need to quarantine as long as you test negative.
  - If you test positive, you must isolate for 10 days prior to resuming standard prevention measures (this includes wearing a mask, washing your hands, covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze, maintaining distance and avoiding contact with sick individuals). Employees and students should report a COVID-19 positive test to the self-reporting form.
  - If you test negative, you may resume standard prevention measures.
  - If you are not a close contact, you can continue your standard prevention measures; no other action is necessary.

- **Vaccinated but symptomatic**
  - If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are experiencing symptoms, you should stay home and test immediately. Only leave your home, apartment or residence hall to be tested.
  - If you test positive, you must isolate for 10 days prior to resuming standard prevention measures. Employees and students should report a COVID-19 positive test to the self-reporting form.
  - If you test negative, you should retest 5-7 days after your last exposure (and wear a mask, until your test results are available). If you continue be a close contact of a case, you must follow the instructions of your contact tracer. If you eventually test positive, you must isolate for 10 days before resuming standard prevention measures. If you test negative on the last test directed by your contact tracer, you may resume standard prevention measures.

- **Unvaccinated individuals exposed** to someone with COVID-19, the quarantine requirement remains unchanged from last year. Specifically, you will be required by a legal order from the Onondaga County Health Department quarantine for 10 days. Once you are released from quarantine, you may resume standard prevention measures.