

COVID-19 Exposure Updated FAQ's

August 8, 2020

I am sick or think I might have symptoms of the coronavirus. What should I do?

Do NOT come to work/volunteer if you feel sick, have a fever greater than 100.4 degrees F, or have other symptoms of the coronavirus as outlined by the CDC. Contact your supervisor promptly by phone or email. Employees/volunteers are encouraged to contact their local health department or health care provider for assistance.

I have traveled to a high-risk area or traveled internationally. What am I required to do?

Employees/volunteers who are traveling or returning from a high-risk area must self-quarantine for 14 days as mandated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, or KDHE. Please see the Isolation and Quarantine guidance for additional information on self-quarantine for potential travel-related exposure. If an employee can perform their job duties remotely, they may telecommute while in quarantine. Employees who are unable to report to work because travel to a high-risk area who cannot perform their job tasks remotely should fill out the FFRCA leave request form.

I have tested positive for COVID-19 and am exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. When can I return to work?

Employees/volunteers who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have had any of the COVID-related symptoms must isolate. The employee/volunteer may return to work/volunteering only after all of the following conditions are met:

- at least 3 days – 72 hours – have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, improvement in respiratory symptoms – e.g., cough, shortness of breath, and
- at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Persons who are immunocompromised should consult with their health care provider about the advisability of not returning to work until they have tested negative on an RT-PCR test.

I have tested positive for COVID-19, but do not have any symptoms. When can I return to work?

Employees/volunteers who have tested positive for COVID-19 but who have not had any symptoms must isolate. The employee/volunteer may return to work when:

- at least 10 days have passed since the date of the first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, the employee/volunteer has had no subsequent illness
- the employee/volunteer remains asymptomatic, and
- for 3 days following discontinuing of isolation and the return to work, employees/volunteer must maintain 6-foot social distancing and wear covering over their nose and mouth whenever in a setting where others are present.

I do not have symptoms but have been in contact with a sick family member or have been advised by a health official or other person of authority that I have been in Close Contact with a known COVID case. What should I do?

The employee/volunteer must quarantine for 14 days after the last contact with the case.

Employees who can perform their job tasks by telecommuting can continue to work remotely. Employees who are unable to report to work because of close contact with a known COVID-19 case who cannot perform their job tasks remotely should fill out the FFRCA leave request form.

I have been tested for COVID-19 and am awaiting results. What should I do?

An employee/volunteer should follow instructions from their personal physician or testing site.

What is a “Close Contact?”

A person is considered a "close contact" if they have been directly within 6 feet of someone with a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19 for 10 minutes or more. The time frame for having contact with an individual includes the 72 hours before the individual became symptomatic.

COVID-19 Exposure in the Workplace

Johnson County

July 2020

If a visitor, employee, or volunteer at the Johnson County Extension Office or designated program area has tested positive for COVID-19 the following steps will be taken:

- Using CDC approved disinfectants, the office/program area and any common areas/common touch points are to be cleaned that was occupied by the infected person
- Director will contact custodial services to use disinfectant fog and extra cleaning measures
- If incident occurs at a designated program site, the Director of that site will be notified immediately by the Extension Agent/Director
- For all who are in the building/program space during exposure, quarantine is not necessary unless exposure occurred within 6 feet and for over 10 minutes, or if contacted by disease investigator
- As long as there is one case reported, there will be no need to shut down complete office/program area; yet all who were in contact with infected person will be required to get tested and self-quarantine until the results are received. If there are multiple positive cases, office/program area may be deemed a cluster and temporary shutdown may occur and employees work from home. Volunteers will cease program work until deemed cleared by the Extension office to resume volunteer activities
- Whether or not an employee/volunteer is directly exposed to COVID-19, if he/she feels ill, staying home and taking a sick day is strongly encouraged. If they have COVID-19 symptoms, they are encouraged to get tested and self-quarantine until results are received.
- The university has discontinued all out-of-state university-affiliated or sponsored travel at this time. Employees traveling out-of-state for personal reasons will need to refer to the latest KDHE guidelines to determine if a hot-spot was visited and if isolation/quarantine is necessary.
- <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/175/Travel-Exposure-Related-Isolation-Quaran>