MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert

MESSAGE ID:	**MSHAN-20200827-00465-ALT (Health Alert)**
RECIPIENTS:	**All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and Healthcare Providers – Statewide**
	Thursday, August 27, 2020
SUBJECT:	**Mississippi State Department of Health COVID-19 COVID Isolation, Quarantine and Outbreak Guidelines for Colleges and Universities**

Definitions

Isolation – Isolation refers to the time period that an infected patient with COVID-19 must spend alone, away from others, to prevent the transmission of disease. The period of isolation is 14 days from the onset of symptoms (or the date of testing for those who are asymptomatic at the time of diagnosis). Essential employees (as determined by the College/University) may return to work after 10 days of isolation if they meet the following criteria:

- It has been 10 days past the onset of symptoms (or date of test if they were asymptomatic);
- Have been fever free for at least 24 hours; and
- Have improvement of other symptoms.

Quarantine – Quarantine is a 14-day period that those exposed to an infectious COVID patient must spend alone, away from others, to prevent the transmission of COVID should the person become infectious. This 14-day period is required because exposed individuals can become contagious up to 14 days after exposure and not realize it. A negative test for COVID-19 does not remove the necessity of quarantining. Essential employees (as determined by the College/University) may continue to work while under quarantine if they meet the following criteria:

- Remain asymptomatic;
- Have their temperature and symptoms monitored by the College/University;
- Wear a mask or cloth face covering the entire time at work.

Exposure – A high risk exposure (or close contact to an infected person) is specified as spending 15 minutes within 6 feet or less of someone infectious with COVID-19, **with or without a mask**. The 15-minute timeframe is not required to be continuous; rather cumulative throughout the day.

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Contact – An individual who has had a high-risk exposure.

Infectious Period – The infectious period is 2 days (48 hours) prior to symptom onset (or test positivity if no symptoms at time of diagnosis) and then an additional 10 days from symptom onset or test positivity (12 days altogether).

Outbreak – An outbreak is identified if 3 or more individuals within a group are diagnosed with COVID within a 14-day period.

Group – Collection of individuals in regular contact or proximity. Examples include sports teams, dorm halls, groups of employees working in the same setting, sorority or fraternity houses, shared living environments, clubs and in-person classes. All members of a "group" must be quarantined in the event of an outbreak.

Viral Test- Viral tests are those that directly detect the presence of virus in respiratory samples (such as nasal swabs) to diagnose infection. Examples of viral tests are PCR (nucleic acid) or antigen tests. These may be either point of care rapid tests, or tests that require samples to be submitted to a laboratory for analysis.

What to do in the event of a case of COVID-19
- Isolate the identified infected case as described;
- Identify contacts with high risk exposure;
- Quarantine those with high risk exposure;
- MSDH recommends testing all persons with high risk exposure for COVID-19 with a viral test to diagnose infection;
- Persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to quarantine or get tested again for up to 3 months

What to do in the event of COVID-19 outbreak

Outbreaks represent serious risk to the identified group and the broader community. There are several potential responses to an outbreak that can be taken.

Option 1: Universal Quarantine

In this option, all members of the group are quarantined individually for 14 days from the last date of potential exposure (see *Infectious Period*). Individuals in quarantine must stay apart from the group and others in the community.

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Option 2: Universal Testing

In this option, universal testing with a viral test is used to identify if there is unrecognized transmission that has already occurred within the group. If all tests within the group are negative, only those specific close contacts identified within the group must remain quarantine, even if testing negative. If there is transmission identified through universal testing – the whole group must be quarantined consistent with Option 1.

Steps:
1. Isolate identified cases;
2. Quarantine all individuals with high risk exposures;
3. Test all members of the group (if less than 100% of the group is tested, then universal quarantine is executed);
4. Testing of the group members should occur as quickly as possible—the group members should remain quarantined until testing has occurred;
5. Those individuals with known high-risk exposures (i.e., close contacts) will remain quarantined regardless of test results;
6. If any known close contacts test positive, repeat step 2 and quarantine newly identified close contacts;
7. If COVID-19 cases are identified among non-contacts the entire group must quarantined for a full 14-day period.
8. If new cases are identified within the group indicating transmission has occurred, the timeframe for quarantine begins at the time of last group exposure.

In the Option 2 approach – testing determines if there is an unidentified transmission risk. If individuals not known to be at risk test positive, the whole group must quarantine.

Option 3: Weekly Testing

In this option, all members of the group are tested weekly. All identified contacts are quarantined for 14 days.

Steps:
1. Test all group members weekly;
2. Isolate identified cases;
3. Quarantine all identified individuals with high risk exposures (must remain quarantined even if their test is negative);
4. Repeat testing the following week and follow isolation and quarantine guidelines.

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Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program:	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier:	MSHAN-20200827-00465-ALT
Program (HAN) Type:	Health Alert
Status (Type):	Actual ()
Message Type:	Alert
Reference:	MSHAN-00465
Severity:	Unknown
Acknowledgement:	No
Sensitive:	Not Sensitive
Message Expiration:	Undetermined
Urgency:	Undetermined
Delivery Time:	600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**).

Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages**.**

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

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Message Type:

Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of "Update" or "Cancel", this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. "n/a" = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).

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