

## Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions

*These FAQs will be updated as new information becomes available.*

A special email account has been created allowing the MCC community to email any feedback or concerns they would like to have addressed by our Emergency Management Team. Please contact [emergencymanagement@middlesex.mass.edu](mailto:emergencymanagement@middlesex.mass.edu).

### What is the risk level at MCC for COVID-19?

Based on current information, the **risk of acquiring COVID-19 remains low across Massachusetts.**

As of 3:30 p.m. on March 10, 2020, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker has declared a state of emergency regarding COVID-19. Conditions regarding the COVID-19 response are rapidly updating. [Please check the MCC website for access to updates from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) and the Massachusetts Board of Health.](#)

### What does "Person Under Investigation (PUI)" mean?

A PUI for COVID-19 is someone who met the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) risk assessment criteria](#) for testing and immediately enters quarantine until results of the testing are available. This includes persons who have traveled to specific countries detailed in the [CDC Travel Health Alert](#). **Someone's nationality alone is not a risk factor for COVID-19.**

### What is a "Presumptive Positive Case?"

A Presumptive Positive Case of COVID-19 is someone who met the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) risk assessment criteria](#) for testing and their test came back from the state laboratory as positive for COVID-19. The person then isolates at home. Close contacts, household and family members may be subsequently tested.

### What is considered close contact?

A close contact is defined by the CDC as:

- a) being within approximately 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case; or
- b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on).

### What do quarantine and isolation mean?

**Quarantine** in general means the separation of a person or group of people reasonably believed to have been exposed to a communicable disease but not yet symptomatic, from others who have not been so exposed, to prevent the possible spread of the communicable disease.

**Isolation** means the separation of a person or group of people known or reasonably believed to be infected with a communicable disease and potentially infectious from those who are not infected to prevent spread of the communicable disease. Isolation for public health purposes may be voluntary or compelled by federal, state or local public health order. Following notification of a presumptive or confirmed positive test result, persons will be required to be in isolation (keep to one room or floor of a home), separated from the rest of the family and other community contacts.

## **What should individuals do if they are experiencing symptoms (fever, cough)?**

**If you are experiencing symptoms (fever, cough), you should contact your primary care provider** for further guidance. Please do not go directly to the Emergency Room or Urgent Care Center. If your medical provider (primary care physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner) directs you to the Emergency Room based on their assessment, please call ahead to the hospital before arriving.

Lowell General Hospital: 978-937-6000

Lahey Hospital and Medical Center: 781-744-5100

Emerson Hospital: 978-287-3690

For any medical emergency, call 911

## **What can MCC students and employees do to reduce the risk of acquiring COVID-19?**

While it is important to be vigilant and informed about the COVID-2019 outbreak, please note that the influenza (Flu) infection rate is high in Massachusetts this year. It is not too late to get a flu shot. Call your local Board of Health department or medical provider to learn more.

Also, as a means of preventing transmission of any respiratory infection, please practice the following activities:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then dispose of the tissue in the trash
- Disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces like computers, door knobs, desks and countertops
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Stay home from school and work if you are sick or exhibiting symptoms

## **What do I do if I have been in contact with someone who has, or may have, COVID-19?**

If individuals who have come in contact with someone who is classified as a Person Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19, they should contact their medical provider or visit the [Department of Public Health COVID-19 website](#) for further guidance.

## **Can I be tested for COVID-19?**

Only your healthcare provider can order a test for COVID-19. If you are feeling ill, contact your medical provider by phone, email, text or video platform to determine next steps. It is important to contact your provider for guidance on testing and not just arrive at their office.

## **Is it safe to travel internationally?**

Due to guidance from the CDC and Governor Baker's Administration, MCC has suspended International Fellowship travel to Italy and Portugal. Additionally, students and college employees who engage in personal travel, both domestic and international, are requested to report their travel plans by [filling out the Travel Reporting Form](#). Reporting will greatly help the College to take appropriate preventative measures, offer available resources, and immediately assist any member of our community who may become ill or has been in close proximity with someone who has become ill. The information reported will be used to assist the College in implementing any precautions or protocols recommended by public health agencies.

On March 4, the [CDC issued an updated Travel Health Alert](#) for all United States residents, instructing travelers returning from countries with a Level 3 alert (currently China, South Korea, Iran and Italy) to self-quarantine ("stay home") and monitor their health for 14 days after returning to the US. This guidance also instructs travelers from countries with a Level 2 alert (currently Japan) to monitor their health and limit interactions with others for 14 days after returning to the US. The guidance advises against any non-essential travel to Level 3 countries.

## **How are MCC's buildings being cleaned?**

The Facilities department is continuing with the ongoing cleaning of community spaces and classrooms. Currently the College has sufficient sanitizing supplies on campus and has ordered more. Hand sanitizer stations already located around campus are being filled and repaired. If you encounter a station without sanitizer or a bathroom missing soap or paper towels, please [submit a facilities work order right away](#).

Sanitizing wipes are being distributed to each classroom for students and staff to use on keyboards and table tops. Touch-free hand sanitizers for building entry ways have been ordered and will be installed as soon as possible. Information about staying healthy and stopping the spread of the virus will be posted on both the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

## **Will upcoming campus events be cancelled?**

At this time all events are being evaluated individually. An announcement regarding all non-instructional gatherings will be made in the coming days. Classes and instructional meetings will continue to take place as scheduled.

## **Will MCC be Closing?**

At this time, the CDC and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health are not advising that colleges close in situations where a student or employee of the College has been in contact with a PUI, nor if the student or employee him/her/themselves is a PUI.