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# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Good afternoon!

As we begin welcoming staff, faculty and students back to campus, we want to share a campus update about how to navigate positive COVID-19 cases on campus and the process for contact tracing.

## **RESPONDING TO POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULTS**

To maintain a healthy campus, it is critically important all members of our Iowa State community (students, faculty, and staff) self-monitor for [symptoms of COVID-19](#), and stay at home if you are not feeling well.

***Students, faculty, and staff should immediately self-report if they test positive for COVID-19.***

- Positive test results must be reported by completing this [form](#).
- Self-reporting is a safe and confidential process and will allow ISU's Public Health Team to provide support to those who test positive.
- It is required that all students, faculty and staff self-report and [self-isolate](#) once they receive a positive COVID-19 test result.

The following process will be followed for students, faculty and staff who report a positive test result:

### **Response to Student Positive Result**

Staff members from the ISU Public Health Team will receive a notification of positive campus result. Staff will contact the student and provide health information and resources for self-care, Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and next steps, and answer questions. They will also provide guidance regarding contacts including roommates, employers, family and close friends.

- The ISU Public Health Team will also notify the Department of Residence if the student lives in ISU housing so appropriate precautions can be taken.
- Student workers will be asked to identify their supervisor so that notification and support can occur.

### **Response to Faculty and Staff Positive Result**

Staff members from the ISU Public Health Team will receive a notification of positive campus result. Staff will contact the faculty or staff member and provide health information and resources for self-care, Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and next steps, and answer questions.

- When a faculty or staff member self-reports, their supervisor will be notified and can reach out to the individual who has tested positive with support. Supervisors will not be involved in contact tracing.
- Supervisors may send out [this message](#) to notify employees of the positive case but the identity of the person who tested positive will remain confidential. The message contains support resources and information for what symptoms to look for and how to stay healthy.
- The supervisor is encouraged to notify their Senior HR partner if they need additional assistance.

As part of the follow up process of any positive COVID-19 case, custodial supervisors will be notified so that cleaning and disinfection procedures can be facilitated.

## **CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTACT TRACING**

Case Management is a process used with people who test positive for COVID-19 to assess symptoms, activities, health history, review isolation guidance, and identify contacts. Contact tracing is a process used to trace and monitor contacts of people who have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. These are important strategies to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on campus and in the Ames community. An effective contact tracing and case management program can ensure that those at risk of having been infected are rapidly identified and triaged to prevent unnecessary spread of COVID-19 and assists with disease management.

Since the beginning of COVID-19, case management and contact tracing has been managed by Story County Public Health and the Iowa Department of Public Health. They continue to complete these processes at the present time.

In this process, staff reach out to people that test positive and screen them for their close contacts based on the [current IDPH definition](#). Those that test positive will be reminded to [isolate](#).

Staff also reach out to and notify these contacts that they have been exposed to a positive case and provide guidance for [quarantine](#). They will also recommend that contacts share this information with their employers.

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF A DEDICATED ISU PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM**

As the number of students, faculty and staff increase on campus, ISU has established the ISU Public Health Team to ensure that Iowa State's response is quick and efficient. ISU's Public Health Team will only be responsible for ISU students, faculty and staff. ISU's case management and contact tracing processes will begin in July and an announcement will be made when this process is live. The ISU Public Health Team is an interdepartmental team that will be managed by the Thielen Student Health Center and will include trained individuals. All team members will complete contact tracing and confidentiality training.

#### **CYCLONES CARE**

Navigating the return to campus takes the cooperation of all Cyclones. Please do your part to show you care and create a healthy campus this summer and fall:

- Stay home if you're sick.
- Wear a face covering and encourage your friends and colleagues to do the same.
- Maintain physical distancing of 6-feet and avoid crowded areas.
- Wash your hands regularly.

These simple acts of caring will not only protect the campus but also the community we love so much. Watch for additional ways to show you care in the next few weeks.

If you have questions, or need additional guidance, please contact [COVID-19@iastate.edu](mailto:COVID-19@iastate.edu).

Sincerely,

Erin Baldwin  
Interim Senior Vice President for Student Affairs  
Assistant Vice President for Student Health and Wellness  
and Director of Thielen Student Health Center

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**CYCLONES** **CARE**

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