Dear Cyclone Community,

Iowa State University’s public health team is using a new tool to improve case management and contact tracing. The goal is to efficiently collect information about potential contacts and provide more timely notifications.

If you test positive for COVID-19, you’ll now receive a notification (text or email) from Cyclone Health with a survey that includes the definition of a close contact, and asks you to start compiling a list of potential contacts. This will be followed by a call from a case investigator who will verify the information and provide support for your isolation period. It is critically important to provide a complete and accurate list of contacts to ensure those at risk are quickly identified to prevent unnecessary spread of COVID-19.

A separate notification will then be sent to all students, faculty and staff identified through the contact tracing process. If you receive a notification about potential exposure, please quarantine immediately. A contact tracer will call to answer questions and provide information, but you should not wait until you receive this call to begin quarantine.

This workflow chart illustrates the case management and contact tracing process and provides a nice overview of what to expect if you test positive or are identified as a close contact.

COVID-19 testing reminders

The testing center at Johnny’s in Hilton Coliseum is open to all students, faculty and staff with symptoms of COVID-19 or who were potentially exposed to a positive case. To schedule a COVID-19 test, call 515-294-5801 (option 9) or go online at cyclonehealth.org/appt. Once your appointment is confirmed you will receive a notification to complete the pretest questionnaire prior to arriving for your test. Starting this week, the testing center has new hours:

- 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday
- 9 a.m. to noon Saturday

If you receive a positive test result from a medical provider or an off-campus clinic, please self-report using the Iowa State University Positive COVID-19 Reporting Form for Campus. Self-reporting is required and necessary to initiate the contact tracing process.

All patients awaiting test results should self-isolate. Do not attend class or go to work. Compile a list of close contacts, those that you’ve been within 6 feet of for more than 15 consecutive minutes. Write down their name, email, phone number and most recent date of contact. This will be helpful if you test positive and are asked for close contacts.

The university’s COVID-19 Public Health Data website includes weekly and daily reports on test results as well as isolation and quarantine data. For the past two weeks, we’ve seen a decline in the number of positive cases on campus. This is encouraging and evidence that we must continue to wear our face coverings, physical distance and avoid large gatherings. And remember to complete the daily symptom checker. It is a simple tool designed to help you self-assess your symptoms and stay home if you’re sick.

Thank you for doing your part to show Cyclones Care.

Sincerely,

Kristen Obbink
COVID-19 Public Health Coordinator

Erin Baldwin
Associate Vice President for Student Health and Wellness and Director of Thielen Student Health Center