



COVID-19 **TESTING, TRACING,** **AND CASE** **MANAGEMENT**

July 2020 (revised July 28, 2020)

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Disclaimer

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COVID-19 Testing, Tracing, and Case Management Plan

As faculty, staff, and students return to campus, Virginia Tech will continue to take actions to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19. Part of the mitigation strategy is a comprehensive Testing, Tracing, and Case Management Plan. This plan provides a strategy for monitoring health conditions of the Virginia Tech community, including initial and ongoing screening and testing of students and employees, cooperating with local health department contact-tracing investigations, and case management within the university population. The approach outlined in this plan is based on the information currently available, and may be modified as more is learned about COVID-19 and the virus responsible (SARS-CoV-2). The testing strategy will remain flexible, adjusting number of tests conducted and frequency in response to the changing COVID-19 landscape. Implementation will be coordinated by the Schiffert Health Center (SHC) and the New River Health District (NRHD), and will comply with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Virginia Department of Health (VDH) public health guidelines.

Screening & Testing

In the interest of mitigating the risk to the public health on campus and in surrounding communities to the extent possible, members of the Virginia Tech community who plan to return to work, attend class, and live on the Blacksburg campus during the fall semester will be asked to participate in COVID-19 screening, through a combination of daily health verification surveys and viral testing of the returning population. All students living on campus will affirm their commitment to the public health of the campus community as part of their housing contracts. Employees and students will be asked to complete a daily health verification survey prior to coming to campus or other Virginia Tech location using the **Hokie Health** ✓ screening tool in the “Hokie Ready” public safety and preparedness mobile app. Certain higher-contact areas, where individuals have increased interactions with the public, may have additional screening protocols.

Diagnostic testing is provided through SHC, the VDH, and local care providers. Five categories have been identified for priority testing.

- **Initial Testing** – Testing students with residential life housing contracts who are living on campus. In order to better understand the prevalence of COVID-19 and to mitigate spread of the virus in the residential halls, all residential students are required to participate in the COVID-19 testing program during move-in, even if they have secured a negative test result prior to returning to Blacksburg. The initial testing of residential students will occur through testing clinics coordinated by SHC.
- **Symptomatic** – Testing of any individuals who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19. Testing of students will occur primarily through SHC. Symptomatic employees will be offered testing at their choice of Primary Care Provider (PCP) or through the VDH.
- **Contact-Tracing Testing** – Individuals who have been identified through contact-tracing as having had close contact with someone who has lab-confirmed COVID-19 or who was diagnosed with COVID-19; testing will occur as recommended by the VDH.

Students will be tested through SHC, PCP, or the VDH. Employees will be offered testing through PCP or the VDH.

- Risk-Based Exposure (High Contact) – Testing of individuals who, due to the nature of their job or academic responsibilities, are in close contact with or have a higher interaction with the public or each other. These groups often cannot maintain physical distancing or wear masks at all times to mitigate spread of the virus. Voluntary testing of students and employees in this category will occur through SHC. The frequency and number of these tests will be a function of the overall testing capacity.
- Ongoing Surveillance – Ongoing testing of the population will occur throughout the fall semester. Testing through SHC will be prioritized based on symptoms, contacts, and risk-based exposure (high-contact settings).

Implementation

TESTING

Students can do their part to protect the public health of their campus and surrounding community by self-quarantining and wearing a face covering for 14 days before they arrive on Virginia Tech campuses. All students with on-campus housing contracts are required to sign and abide by the Residential Life COVID-19 Health and Well-being Commitment. Currently, there is the risk of exposure to or infection with COVID-19 throughout the world.

Students planning to live on and off campus are strongly encouraged to secure a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test result within five days prior to returning to campus. Those who test positive are required to self-isolate in accordance with their local health department requirements before returning to a Virginia Tech location. All residential students will also be tested upon their return to campus through a testing clinic coordinated by SHC during move-in. Residential students are required to participate in this testing. This on-campus population is representative of the student body as a whole, including students from areas of high prevalence, within and outside of Virginia. Returning off-campus students who are at-risk – those should who believe or know they have been exposed to the virus, traveled to Blacksburg from a hot spot, or have symptoms or other indications of exposure – should contact Schiffert Health Center for a screening to determine the need for and scheduling of a COVID-19 test. Following this initial testing, ongoing diagnostic testing, screening, and surveillance of students through SHC will continue throughout the fall semester. Testing options are also available for students and employees through their PCP, urgent care, select pharmacies, and the local health department.

It is anticipated that diagnostic PCR tests will be used, having a high sensitivity and near 100% specificity. Initial testing will not include serologic (antibody) testing, as the sensitivity and specificity of serologic tests vary. However, the epidemiological value to gathering this type of surveillance data may lead to integration of serologic tests as part of the ongoing testing strategy. In addition, the use of wastewater monitoring techniques could potentially provide additional information in support of early detection on the Blacksburg campus.

Selection Criteria

Testing will begin with the population of student-athletes and athletics training staff as they return to train over the summer. Testing of symptomatic individuals is the highest priority, followed by testing of individuals identified as close contacts of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. Initial testing of students and ongoing surveillance will be in addition to testing any symptomatic individuals in the population.

Selection criteria for the initial testing applies to residential students with housing contracts. Selection criteria for ongoing surveillance applies to the whole returning population, including residential students, off-campus students living locally, and employees. Populations at increased risk of exposure due to a higher-contact environment will be evaluated; sample collection and testing capacity will be increased as necessary. Individuals in these populations may include but not be limited to student-athletes and athletics staff (training staff and sport-dependent), clinical staff and students (e.g. VTCSOM, SHC, Adult Day Services), research staff and students involved in certain human subjects research, dining services staff, first responders, and housekeeping staff.

Virginia Tech locations outside of Blacksburg will have access to testing through individual PCPs, local health departments, pharmacies, and urgent care facilities.

NOTIFICATION

Any individuals identified by Virginia Tech as testing positive for COVID-19 will be reported to the VDH in accordance with applicable law and Board of Health Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control. As Virginia Tech becomes aware of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, SHC or occupational health staff from the Environmental Health and Safety office (EHS) will notify the VDH to coordinate contact-tracing and provide additional information as requested (please note, the physician/health care provider is responsible for this immediate, confidential morbidity report to the VDH). If a cluster of cases is identified by the VDH, the SHC and the Case Management Team will support local health department efforts to identify the at-risk population.

In support of public health and promoting a safer campus community, and in the spirit of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), individuals who have tested positive or are presumed positive, or are identified by a public health professional or health care provider as a close contact, are encouraged to self-disclose to the Case Management Team. Early detection is a critical component of containment and mitigating risk to the Virginia Tech community. Notifying the Case Management Team provides an opportunity to quickly identify potential risks to the health of university community members, and it allows for swift action to contain the spread and provide additional support if necessary.

Students, particularly those living off campus and who were not tested through SHC, are encouraged to self-disclose their quarantine or isolation status.

Employees are required to notify their supervisor if they must miss work due to illness, or are asked to self-quarantine by the VDH, so that work schedules and leave can be determined. Employees should report all close contacts to the VDH. Employees should also report known university contacts and work locations to the Case Management Team to assist the team in determining if there are any additional actions needed by the university. Return-to-work dates will be determined by the supervisor, employee, and Human Resources, based on guidance from the VDH.

The Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities and other units with contractors and vendors onsite will notify the Case Management Team if individuals within the contractor/vendor population have tested positive for COVID-19, and provide information as necessary to help identify university groups that may be affected.

CONTACT TRACING & CASE MANAGEMENT

In keeping with Virginia Tech's commitment to the safety and well-being of all community members, Virginia Tech has established a Case Management Team to provide support to VDH contact-tracing efforts, provide service, and streamline the process for those seeking support from the university across multiple areas. The Case Management Team will support all community members, inform monitoring, and eliminate duplication of efforts for those in isolation or quarantine.

The VDH has extensive communicable disease investigation guidelines, including a contact-tracing program that will identify the highest-risk contacts of cases in the overall community. Virginia Tech is in a unique position to partner with the VDH, providing support to contact-tracing efforts through methods already practiced by the university Case Management Team, which will act as a liaison to gather additional information or provide assistance as requested.

Case Management Team

The Case Management Team maintains the university case management system and coordinates on-campus quarantine, isolation, and decontamination efforts. Medical professionals from EHS (Occupational Health) and SHC will act as liaisons to the VDH. In addition, team members will assist with outreach to students identified as contacts, as requested by the NRHD, including coordinating medical evaluation for residential students through SHC. For awareness, members of the Case Management Team will complete the [JHU COVID-19 Contact Tracing Course](#), as well as [FERPA Training](#).

The team consists of representatives from the following university departments:

- Environmental Health and Safety
- Schiffert Health Center
- Hokie Wellness
- Division of Student Affairs (DSA)
- Dean of Students Office
- Human Resources - Leave Benefits and Workers Compensation

The efforts of the Case Management Team will be supported by departments across campus, including Virginia Tech Emergency Management (VTEM), the Office for Equity and Accessibility, the Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities, and the Division of Human Resources.

Students

All students returning to campus must adhere to the university's public health procedures and complete the EHS Coronavirus Awareness Training module, as well as the [Hokie Health](#) ✓ daily health verification survey. Residential students are required to complete the Residential Life

COVID-19 Health and Well-being Commitment as part of their housing contract prior to returning to campus, affirming their commitment to the health and well-being of the Virginia Tech community. Students who do not feel well should stay home to minimize potential exposure of other community members. Students who are presenting COVID-19 symptoms while on campus should call SHC for screening and further guidance.

Students who test positive for COVID-19 should inform the Office of the Dean of Students, which will provide ongoing support for personal, social, and academic needs. If a student living on campus tests positive, SHC will contact a DSA representative of the Case Management Team to initiate the *COVID-19 Isolation Protocol - Fall 2020: New Hall West*, and the student will be placed in the isolation residence hall (New Hall West). Students in isolation will receive daily health check calls from SHC.

Employees

All employees returning to campus must adhere to the university's public health procedures and complete the EHS Coronavirus Awareness Training module. Employees will be asked to complete the **Hokie Health** ✓ survey prior to coming to work each day. Employees who do not feel well should stay home to minimize potential exposure of their colleagues and community members. Employees who are presenting COVID-19 symptoms at work should leave work immediately after notifying their supervisor. Refer to *Section 2: Guidance to Individuals Experiencing Flu-like Symptoms (Suspected "COVID-19 Case")* of the EHS [COVID-19 Instructions for Supervisors](#) document. Employees experiencing COVID-like symptoms should fill out the online VDH [COVIDCHECK](#) screening tool or contact the NRHD (540-267-8240) for screening and additional health guidance. Employees directed to self-isolate or quarantine will work with the VDH to determine return-to-work dates. Faculty and staff should contact Human Resources (hrleave@vt.edu) for assistance with leave benefits.

Supervisors

Supervisors should encourage employees who do not feel well to stay home. If an employee is presenting COVID-19 symptoms at work, they will be sent home and asked to fill out the online VDH [COVIDCHECK](#) screening tool or contact the NRHD (540-267-8240) for screening and additional health guidance, which may include testing and self-isolation or symptom-monitoring and self-quarantine. Refer to the EHS [COVID-19 Instructions for Supervisors](#) document for additional information. Supervisors should also notify the Case Management Team if employees have tested positive for COVID-19.

Supervisors should encourage faculty and staff to contact Human Resources to go over leave benefits (hrleave@vt.edu) and provide guidance to faculty and staff during transitions of leave buckets. Supervisors should work with the employee and Human Resources on a return-to-work date. Return-to-work will depend on self-isolation or quarantine timelines, which are determined by the VDH.

Contractors

Contractors who develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 are required to notify their project manager or other contact within the Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities. The division will then notify the Case Management Team, and an EHS occupational

health representative will follow-up with the VDH or local health department for case-by-case guidance.

Virginia Department of Health

The VDH has an extensive contact-tracing network and will initiate contact-tracing and follow-up calls with individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and their close contacts. VDH will communicate with all contacts identified by cases, place them in quarantine, and enroll them in the Sara Alert system. Contacts will be referred for testing as recommended. VDH will work with employees and supervisors on return-to-work dates and release from quarantine. VDH will contact the Case Management Team for additional information should it be needed, and partner with SHC to assess student exposures. As part of the screening process, the VDH provides individuals who identify as associated with Virginia Tech the appropriate contact information to assist with resources and support.

DAILY HEALTH VERIFICATION SURVEY

As part of efforts to mitigate the spread of illness in the community, employees and students coming to campus for classes, to conduct research, to work, or for other engagement activities will be asked to complete the **Hokie Health ✓** daily health verification survey prior to coming to campus each day. **Hokie Health ✓** will be accessible through the “Hokie Ready”-branded AppArmor Safety app, and includes a series of questions about current health, such as any signs and symptoms of COVID-19, as well as potential exposure, including contact with confirmed or presumed positive cases.