



Policy Name:	Covid-19 Exposure and Contact Tracing				
Section Number:	04.12	Section Title:	President		
Policy Owner:	Vice President of Student Affairs		Last updated:	Jan 2022	Reviewed: N/A
Status:	Active		Due for Review:	To remain in place until the end of the COVID-19 pandemic	

I. General Statement:

Jones College’s primary interest is the safety and health of students and employees. The institution will follow Mississippi Department of Health and Center for Disease Control guidelines. While on campus, all employees, students, and visitors are required to wear face coverings when inside buildings. Jones College supports the recommendation in order to best protect the health, safety, and well being of the Campus Community. All members of the Campus Community are expected to comply. Students who refuse to comply with this policy will be in violation of the Student Code of Conduct and may face disciplinary actions. It is the personal responsibility of each individual student and employee to self-monitor and self-report any COVID-19 contact or COVID-19 positive test. Employees, students, and visitors should not be on campus if they have symptoms of COVID-19, are awaiting test results for COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19.

II. Definitions

- a. COVID suspected
A person who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive.
- b. COVID positive
A person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 following a positive test.
- c. Exposure
An 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.
- d. Contact
An individual who has had an exposure to COVID-19.
- e. Isolation
Condition in which a case is separated from others. Isolation occurs under conditions (for example, having a private bedroom and bathroom) that will prevent or limit the transmission of an infectious agent to those who are susceptible. Cases should be isolated for the entirety of their infectious period.

f. Quarantine

Condition in which a contact's activities are restricted. The contact is separated from others to prevent onward disease transmission to those who are susceptible. Contacts should be quarantined for the duration of their incubation period

III. COVID suspected individuals

It is the responsibility of each COVID suspected individual to self-monitor, self-report, and self-isolate.

There are a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Due to COVID-19 symptoms possibly changing, please refer to the link below for the most current information from the Center for Disease Control.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Students, employees, and visitors to Jones College showing symptoms of COVID-19 should not enter campus. Students or employees who have symptoms when they arrive on campus or become sick during the day should immediately be separated from others and be sent home. Students and employees with symptoms of COVID-19 should contact Jones College Health Services at 477-4104 or contact their primary care provider by phone. Employees should also contact their immediate supervisor. This applies even when you are working remotely. Any absences due to illness of an employee or their immediate family will be treated as sick leave.

If an employee expresses concern for their safety in returning to work, consult with HR to determine if accommodations can be made for alternate work arrangements (see Telecommuting Policy).

Jones students and employees have access to testing through Jones College Health Services, South Central Medical Center, and LabCorp.

IV. COVID-19 Positive Individuals

Jones College employees or students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to notify Jones College Health Services at campusclinic@jcc.edu immediately. The individual should immediately self-isolate and not return to campus for any reason. For those students in the dorm, they will be expected to isolate off campus. Students living in campus housing who test positive for COVID-19 will be placed in an isolated area until arrangements for their return home can be made. Students **MAY NOT** choose to self-isolate on campus unless instructed to by the Campus Health Clinic. Infected individuals are expected to follow instructions provided by their health care provider and follow CDC guidelines.

Return to campus

Symptomatic individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, and have self-isolated may return to campus after meeting **ALL THREE** of the following criteria:

1. No fever >100.4 F for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication); AND
2. Improvement of symptoms; AND
3. At least 5 days have passed since symptom onset.

Persons who tested positive for COVID-19, and have **NO** symptoms, may return to campus after meeting these **TWO** criteria:

1. At least 5 days have passed since the date of positive test
2. Continue to be symptom free

Note: if symptoms develop, individuals should follow guidance above for persons with COVID-19 symptoms.

V. COVID-19 Exposed Individuals/Contacts

Employees or students who have a close contact exposure should notify Jones College Health Services at campusclinic@jcc.edu immediately.

If the individual:

(a) Has been boosted

OR

(b) Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months

OR

(c) Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

Self-quarantine is not required. The individual may return to campus immediately, and they will be expected to test for COVID-19 on day 5 from exposure, if possible. The individual must wear a mask around others for 10 days and monitor for symptoms.

** A Jones College Health Service professional may recommend adjusting the self-quarantining requirements, if necessary.

If the individual:

(a) Completed primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted

OR

(b) Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted

OR

(c) Are unvaccinated

The individual should immediately self-quarantine and not return to campus for any reason. For those students in the dorm, they will be expected to quarantine off campus. Students living in campus housing who have a close contact exposure will be placed in a quarantined area until arrangements for their return home can be made. Students MAY NOT choose to self-isolate on campus unless instructed to by the Campus Health Clinic. Further instructions will be provided by Jones College Health Services.

** A Jones College Health Service professional may recommend adjusting the self-quarantining requirements, if necessary.

Return to campus

Individuals who have had a close contact exposure, and have self-quarantined may return to campus after meeting the following criteria:

1. Completion of a 5 day self-quarantine with a negative COVID-19 test on day 5 pending the approval of Jones College Health Services
2. Display no signs and symptoms of COVID-19

** Essential employees may be exempted from these requirements upon approval by Jones College Health Services, if necessary.

Strategies to decrease risk of becoming a contact or exposed individual:

- Self-monitor for the development of COVID-19 symptoms such as fever greater than 100.4F, cough, or shortness of breath.
- Practice social- distancing by maintaining 6 feet distance from others.
- Stay out of crowded places.
- Wear a protective face covering when in public.

VI. Contact Tracing Process

When a member of the College community tests positive for COVID-19, the College will investigate potential exposures of others and conduct contact tracing.

The College's delegated representative will gather the following information from the infected person:

Demographics (race, ethnicity, age, occupation, etc.).

Symptoms and symptom onset to determine when the infection occurred.

Risk factors (workplace, class schedule, recent meetings, travel, living arrangements, etc.)

- The College will attempt to notify any person(s) identified as a close contact.
- To protect patient privacy, close contacts are only informed that they have had a potential exposure. The identity of the infected patient will not be given, and no identifying information will be released.
- Exposed individuals will be notified by a Jones College representative, of a potential exposure, as soon as possible.
- Close contacts will be provided with the necessary information to understand their risk and with information to prevent the spread of illness to others. Information regarding self-quarantine and self-monitoring will be provided.
- Close contacts may be required to stay home. Requirements for returning to campus following a direct exposure include 1) completion of a 5-day self-quarantine, AND 2) no signs of COVID-19 infection. Close contacts should notify Jones College Health Services for instructions if symptoms of infection develop. COVID-19 testing may be recommended.

VII. Community Members and Campus Visitors

Jones employees, students, and visitors will not be allowed on campus if they are symptomatic, have tested positive for COVID-19, or are awaiting test results.

Symptomatic individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, and have self-isolated may return to campus after meeting **ALL THREE** of the following criteria:

1. No fever >100.4 F for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication); AND
2. Improvement of symptoms; AND
3. At least 5 days have passed since symptom onset.

Persons who tested positive for COVID-19, and have **NO** symptoms, may return to campus after meeting these **TWO** criteria:

1. At least 5 days have passed since the date of positive test
2. Continue to be symptom free

Note: if symptoms develop, individuals should follow guidance above for persons with COVID-19 symptoms.

In all cases, **individuals should follow the guidance of their health care provider.**