Contact Tracing Protocol for Positive COVID-19 Cases for Ann Arbor Campus Employees at the University of Michigan

May 28, 2020

University of Michigan Ann Arbor campus members who have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the COVID-19 (defined as a Viral PCR test), will be included in a Contact Tracing Protocol to assist in identifying individuals who may have been in close proximity to the positive case and have an elevated risk of contracting the illness. This protocol will be conducted in accordance with the State of Michigan Public Health Code and federal guidelines in an effort to reduce transmission of the virus across the campus.

Contact tracing is a public health tool that has been used for decades to identify people who have come in contact with an ill individual in an attempt to reduce the spread of the disease. It will be used at the University of Michigan to:

- Interrupt ongoing COVID-19 transmission and reduce the spread of infection
- Alert contacts of the potential exposure
- Closely monitor them for symptoms, provide testing and potentially quarantine away from the workplace
- Study the epidemiology of the virus, identify localized outbreaks and ultimately control the spread of illness across campus.

Medical confidentiality and privacy will be maintained. Contacts will only be told they have been exposed to a positive case, but the identity of that case will NOT be revealed. Sensitivity to individual situations will be maintained.

The identification of positive cases in campus community members may occur through several mechanisms, including:

- Testing through Occupational Health Services (OHS)
- Local County Health Department notification
- Employee, supervisor, or student disclosure

Employees experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should be directed to contact the OHS COVID Hotline at 734 764-8021 (Option 1) for a screening interview by trained medical staff, and if indicated based on employee responses, be sent for a COVID-19 testing appointment at a designated location.

- If testing results in a positive case then that information is provided to the employee, with proper follow-up instructions.
- The employee should then contact their supervisor with this information, as they should NOT return to their workplace.
- This information is also forwarded to the employee’s local county health department. The local county health departments are responsible (by law) to interview the positive case for close household contact tracing.

Symptomatic employees who have been tested and diagnosed at a location other than the OHS clinic, should report their diagnosis to their supervisor and NOT return to their workplace until medically cleared to do so.

All positive employee COVID-19 cases will then be contacted and confidentially interviewed (if medically able) by trained Environment, Health & Safety (EHS) staff to identify potential coworker exposures based on work locations, work schedule, job tasks, symptom onset date and other factors as necessary. This information is imperative and known as Contact Tracing. Coworkers exposed to SARS-CoV-2 will be instructed how to prevent further spread of illness.