Frequently asked questions

What if I come into contact with a patient with confirmed COVID-19?
As long as you are wearing the recommended procedure mask and eye protection, your risk from this type of exposure is generally low. In most situations, you will be advised to closely monitor your symptoms and temperature for 14 days from the time of exposure, but we encourage you to contact Dr. Lynn or the Dean on call with any questions.

I am immunocompromised. Should I take any special precautions?
Only you and your physician will know what’s best for you, but for most individuals, it is safe to continue to learn in the clinical environment despite the presence of COVID-19. Students with compromised immune systems should:

- Consider that they can often still provide routine care to patients
- Continue to learn as usual and follow guidance regarding PPE indications for individual patients and scenarios in the learning environment
- Avoid participation in any aerosol generating procedures for any suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients (e.g. intubation, upper endoscopy [bronchoscopy, EGD], vaginal delivery, chest compressions) See attachment for more information.
- Discuss their individual situation with their personal healthcare provider who can give guidance if they should be removed from patient care
- Register with the Office of Disability Services if accommodations are needed

One of my classmates has COVID-19, now what?

- If you believe that you have had a significant exposure to this person (such as being together in a closed room without PPE for more than 15 minutes), then you should report your exposure through the student health monitoring app and contact Dr. Lynn to discuss. She may ask you to call the Med Center COVID Call Center to ask if they think that this was a significant exposure. If you have a local physician, you may call them or soon you will be able to contact Student Health Service for advice.
- It is important to remember that the result of a person’s COVID test is personal health information. If you become aware of a fellow student’s test results because they shared it with you or you suspect that they are positive because of contact tracing efforts, please keep this information confidential except to assist public health/contact tracing efforts.
- The College of Medicine will work with each student to determine how many students may have been exposed, and to determine the level of risk while working to maintain confidentiality as best as possible. If the risk of exposure is low (ex. all students were wearing appropriate personal protective equipment at all times), only symptom monitoring may be recommended without any need for quarantine, but if the risk of exposure is high (being together in a closed room without PPE for more than 15 minutes), then quarantine of all exposed students may be recommended.

What about these other commonly encountered scenarios?

My partner or roommate has had a positive COVID-19 test. What do I do?
- You should notify Dr. Lynn of your exposure. In general if a partner or roommate with whom you live tests positive, you will need to isolate away from them for 14 days and the 14 day count will not start until the day after the last day that you had an exposure to them. Christine
McDonough in our financial aid office can provide you with information about an intermediate stay residence on Olentangy Avenue if alternate lodging is necessary.

A family member of mine had an exposure to a friend and I was home and visited her within a few days of that exposure. Does that count as an exposure for me?

- In general, we do not recommend quarantine for exposures to someone who is asymptomatic and not known to be infected but was exposed to a person with a positive test. But if there are any questions, it is best to call Dr. Lynn or the COVID Call Center to discuss. It is better to ask and be told not to worry about it than not to report a potential exposure.

I was on rounds with my resident and then he informed me that he has a fever today and is going to be tested. Whenever I was with him, we both always had our masks and eye protection on and almost all of the time we maintained 6 feet distance. Do I need to leave service and get tested?

- In this situation, you may call the COVID call center and discuss but in general if you were wearing proper PPE at all times, they will tell you to remain on service and monitor yourself for symptoms.

I saw a patient on Labor and Delivery. I was involved in her care but always wore PPE. After she had been here a half day, her COVID test came back positive. What should I do?

- Same answer as above.