

Return to Campus, Post COVID-19 Closure

COVID-19 Symptoms/Exposure Reporting and COVID-19 Outbreak

General

The aim of this document is to establish a protocol and requirements for the reporting of COVID-19 symptoms and/or exposure by any individual from the Confederation College community. This document also outlines the protocol for handling a COVID-19 outbreak at Confederation College.

Confederation College is responsible for implementing all possible prevention and control measures to ensure the health and safety of all individuals within its facilities. However, there is always a risk of contracting COVID-19 at Confederation facilities, as is the case in any other public space.

This protocol is for all individuals who can access Confederation College campuses, including students, employees, community partners and other professionals or tradespeople who have work arrangements with the College.

COVID-19 Symptoms

The following is a brief list of the most common symptoms of COVID-19. For a complete list, visit [COVID-19: Stop the Spread](#) (Government of Ontario).

- Fever (feeling hot to the touch, a temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- Chills
- Cough that's new or worsening (continuous, more than usual)
- Barking cough or making a whistling when breathing (croup)
- Shortness of breath (out of breath, unable to breathe completely)
- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- Runny, stuffy or congested nose (not related to seasonal allergies or other known causes or conditions)
- Lost sense of taste or smell
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis)
- Headache that's unusual or long lasting
- Digestive issues (nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain)
- Muscle aches
- Extreme tiredness that is unusual (fatigue, lack of energy)
- Falling down often

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Anyone with any symptom of COVID-19, even if mild, should [self-isolate](#) and contact their local health unit for further instructions.

- Thunder Bay District Health Unit: www.tbdhu.com/coronavirus
 - Thunder Bay Campus
 - Greenstone Campus
 - Northshore Campus (Marathon)
- Northwestern Health Unit: www.nwhu.on.ca/Pages/coronavirus.aspx
 - Dryden Campus
 - Lake of the Woods Campus (Kenora)
 - Rainy River District Campus (Fort Frances)
 - Red Lake Campus
 - Sioux Lookout Campus
- Algoma Public Health Unit: www.algomapublichealth.com/disease-and-illness/infectious-diseases/novel-coronavirus/
 - Wawa Campus
- Find other Ontario health units: www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx

Protocol

There are several steps you must follow if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and/or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. They are outlined below in detail and include self-assessment and self-isolation, testing, and reporting to Confederation College.

STEP 1: SELF-ASSESSMENT AND SELF-ISOLATION

- Students, employees and community partners experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should use the COVID-19 self-assessment tool provided by the Ontario government to learn how to get the necessary care: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment>.
- Students, employees and community partners in distress (e.g. significant difficulty breathing, chest pain, fainting or significant worsening of any symptoms of a chronic illness) should go to the nearest emergency room or call 9-1-1.

STEP 2: TESTING

- The [Thunder Bay District Health Unit](#) advises that anyone with ANY [symptom](#) of COVID-19 should stay home (do not go to school, work or any public places) and call to be assessed for testing.
- Students, employees and community partners whose home community falls within another district should refer to advice from their local health unit.

Testing is also available for:

- People without symptoms who are concerned that they have been exposed to COVID-19 (this includes people who are contacts of or may have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case).
- People without symptoms who are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 through their employment, including essential workers (e.g. health care workers, grocery store employees, food processing plants).
- People wanting to resume visits at Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes and other residential care settings.

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To be assessed and scheduled for testing, contact the [assessment centre](#) nearest you. Appointments are required.

You must follow your local health unit guidelines when you:

- Have symptoms associated with COVID-19; and
- Test positive for COVID-19; or
- Are considered to be a probable case by a health care professional and are waiting for your test results; or
- Have been exposed to someone who is considered a probable case by a health care professional and are waiting for your test results.

STEP 3: REPORTING TO CONFEDERATION COLLEGE

You must **IMMEDIATELY** notify your professor (students), direct supervisor (employees) or College contact (community partners) by phone, text or email.

DO NOT GO TO THE COLLEGE.

The professor or supervisor is responsible to notify the Dean or Director responsible for the department, who in turn is responsible for immediately advising the Director of Public Safety and Risk Management or their designate. The Director of Public Safety and Risk Management, or their designate, will advise Facilities Services to perform additional cleaning of all affected areas.

The working and learning areas used by the individual up to 72 hours prior to notification will be temporarily closed for cleaning and disinfection using a product approved by Health Canada. Cleaning and disinfection will be carried out immediately by staff who have been trained to apply measures involving physical distancing, hand washing and the wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE), including disposable gloves and masks.

You must also complete our [COVID-19 Reporting Webform](#).

The information in this form is sent to a confidential mailbox accessed only by designated representatives of the Organization Effectiveness (OE) division. You will be required to provide the following information when completing the webform:

- Full name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Department, program or company name
- Employee or student number (if applicable)
- Answers to the following yes/no questions:
 - Have you had close contact with someone who was diagnosed with COVID-19?
 - If yes, when did this occur?
 - Are you experiencing symptoms of COVID-19?
 - If yes, on what date did your symptoms begin?
 - Have you booked a test for COVID-19?
 - If yes, what is the date of your test?

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- Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19?
 - If yes, what was the date of your diagnosis?
- The dates in which you were on campus over the 72 hours prior to the onset of symptoms or your positive test results, including arrival and departure times
- The work and learning areas (rooms, laboratories, common areas and/or outside areas) that you used up to 72 hours prior to the onset of your symptoms or your positive test results
- The people at the College (students, professors, department staff, etc.) with whom you had DIRECT contact. Direct physical contact refers to contact for over 5 minutes up to 2 days (48 hours) before you exhibited symptoms and before you began to self-isolate

Upon receipt of the completed webform, a representative of the OE division will contact you to collect any information required for follow-up.

The OE representative is responsible to advise The Senior Leadership COVID-19 Response Team, the COVID-19 Task Force and the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee for information purposes.

An assessment will be made by the Senior Leadership COVID-19 Response Team to determine whether further measures, such as additional PPE or other procedures, need to be considered.

Students, employees and community partners must meet the criteria to end self-isolation set by your local health unit. When these criteria are met, the affected individual will contact the OE representative to confirm. The OE representative will then contact the appropriate parties to arrange for the student, employee or community partner to return to the College campus.

DO NOT GO TO THE COLLEGE UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE COLLEGE TO DO SO.

Confirmed Case of COVID-19

The health and safety of our College community is paramount. If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 involving a member of our community, we will do everything possible to reduce the spread, starting with assessing the situation to determine the potential risk to other members of the College community (students, employees, community partners). We will then take appropriate measures to reduce the risk of exposure and spread based upon up-to-date public health information. Measures may include, but are not limited to:

- deep cleaning of the area,
- temporary closure of the area,
- cancellation of classes,
- in extreme cases (i.e. a declared outbreak), campus closure, etc. as required.

Declaration of a COVID-19 Outbreak

An outbreak is defined as two or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in students and/or employees in a College campus/building with an epidemiological link, within a 14-day period, where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection at the College. The College will work with the local public health unit to determine epidemiological links (e.g. cases in the same class or department).

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Privacy Considerations

If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19, that diagnosis is part of their personal, private health information. Confederation College is legally bound not to reveal this information in a manner that could lead to the person's identification. We will provide as much information as possible to allow others to protect themselves from contracting or spreading COVID-19.

In the event of a confirmed case, the local health unit will take the lead on conducting contact tracing with anyone who may have come into contact with the person diagnosed with COVID-19.

Human Rights Considerations

Pandemics can affect those most vulnerable in disproportionate ways. COVID-19 particularly impacts diverse populations including Indigenous communities; members of lower socio-economic groups; marginalized groups; and those who are otherwise vulnerable.

As COVID-19 continues to spread in Canada and globally, reports of Anti-Asian racism have been noted in many places, potentially affecting Confederation College students, faculty, and staff in direct or indirect ways. Racist comments, harassment, or prejudice directed especially to members of Chinese and East Asian origin are caused by the unfounded belief that these people are virus carriers or that they caused the pandemic. It is important to know that the virus does not discriminate. Anyone can be infected anywhere. Confederation College condemns all forms of racism and stands firm in supporting each other to foster solidarity during this difficult time.

Stigma caused by racism can lead to social avoidance, rejection, isolation, denial of services, and even violence. It hurts people and can affect one's mental well-being. By choosing your words carefully, sharing facts and accurate information, and challenging myths and stereotypes, we can all help fight the stigma surrounding COVID-19.

Our human rights advising services remain available to Confederation College students, staff and faculty. Services will be provided via email, telephone consultation or virtually via Microsoft Teams. If you have any concerns related to discrimination, please contact our Equity and Human Rights Advisor at Serena.Dykstra@confederationcollege.ca or humanrights@confederationcollege.ca.

[Click here for additional information about Human Rights and COVID-19.](#)