

COVID-19 FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED EMPLOYEE QUESTIONS

» **Do I need to continue my adherence to USF's Four General Practices after I receive the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Yes. Our collective, ongoing adherence to USF's Four General Practices, even after individuals have received the COVID-19 vaccination, plays a critical role in protecting ourselves and each other. Know that USF will continue these practices until we receive guidance from the Will County Health Department advising otherwise. (added 2/18/2021)

» **Will vaccination opportunities become available through USF?**

USF continues to work with local health officials as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Identifying vaccination opportunities for the USF campus community is one example of this. Should vaccination opportunities become available for the USF campus community, they will be communicated through USF email. If you are interested in acquiring the vaccine as soon as possible, you may want to consider contacting your home county's health department and your primary care physician about your vaccination options. (added 2/18/2021)

» **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's vaccination designations have all educators listed in the 1B category, but I am hearing that higher education is actually listed in 1C in Illinois. Is this true?**

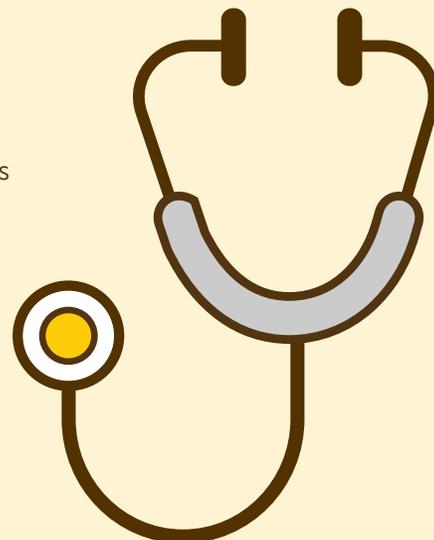
Yes. While the CDC recommends that all educators be included in the 1B phase of each state's vaccination administration, it is ultimately up to each state to make the final classification of the groups within each phase. In Illinois, higher education is included in 1C. (added 2/18/2021)

» **What happens once I receive my first vaccine dose through a USF-administered clinic?**

At the time of your first vaccine dose, you will be provided with general information on when/where your second vaccine dose will be administered. You will need to contact the partnering organization that helped to administer your first vaccine dose to schedule the appointment for your second dose. USF is not formally involved in the scheduling of second dose appointments. (added 2/18/2021)

» **I am in the early stages of planning for an on-campus event that will tentatively take place a few months or more in the future. How should I go about planning for this event?**

Planning for on-campus/in-person events will continue to present unique challenges and require ongoing flexibility. As you plan for your events, you are encouraged to take current guidance provided by state and local health officials into consideration. This can include but is not limited to planning for capacity limits, a hybrid event format, adherence to USF's Four General Practices, and individually-packaged food and refreshments (when applicable). Advance planning for a potential shift to a fully virtual event can help you to prepare for any unanticipated, last-minute changes. When in doubt, plan conservatively and, again, be prepared for a need to pivot. Note that we need to be in Phase 5 for on-campus events to "return to normal". (added 2/18/2021)



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FREQUENTLY ASKED EMPLOYEE QUESTIONS (cont.)

» **What should I do if I show one of the signs or symptoms related to COVID-19?**

You should not come on campus that day and monitor yourself over the next 24-48 hour period. Contact your primary care provider. If sign/symptom remains, you should be tested.

» **What should I do if I show multiple signs or symptoms related to COVID-19?**

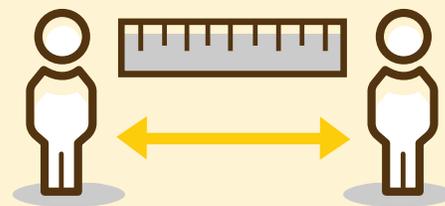
You should immediately get tested for COVID-19 and only return to campus when: 1) your test results come back negative, and 2) you show no further symptoms for a 24-hour period.

» **What should I do if I have been in close contact with someone who has shown one or more signs or symptoms related to COVID-19?**

First, understand what close contact is. This means direct contact for more than a collective 15 minutes within a 24-hour period. The complete CDC definition is listed below. You should self-quarantine and also not come on campus until the person that showed one sign or symptom is symptom-free for 24 hours. If the person had multiple signs/symptoms, you should wait until their test results come back before returning to campus or removing yourself from self-quarantine.

» **What should I do if I test positive for COVID-19?**

You need to isolate immediately off-campus, and follow care instructions from your medical provider. You must also immediately contact your supervisor and Human Resources at HR@stfrancis.edu.



» **When can I return to campus after I test positive for COVID-19?**

The minimum time will be ten days from the onset of the symptoms, but you also must be in consultation with a medical provider. Besides receiving a written medical release from the provider before you can return to campus, you must be in isolation for seven days after the test results come back positive, or 10 days have passed since the symptoms began (whichever is longer). You must also be fever free for 72 hours (without the use of medication) and showing signs of improvement for all other symptoms.

» **What if I test positive for COVID-19 but am asymptomatic?**

You must isolate for ten days from the day that you tested positive, and receive a written release from your medical provider before you can return to campus.

» **What should I do if I have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?**

Be sure to understand what close contact is. This means direct contact for more than 15 minutes. The complete CDC definition is listed below. If this is the case, you should immediately be tested. If you test positive, refer to the two questions immediately above for the protocol and time period for isolation. If you test negative, you must quarantine for a period of 14 days after your last exposure to the person with COVID-19, monitor your symptoms and check your temperature twice a day.

» **What else can I do if I do not want to be tested?**

You must quarantine for a period of 14 days.

» **What must I do if I travel out of the country?**

You must quarantine for a period of 10 days upon your return.

» **What if I choose to travel to a U.S. COVID-19 “hot spot”?**

You should be extra careful how you go about in this area, then monitor your symptoms over a two-week period. Remember that while there are currently no quarantining/isolation restrictions, travel to a known “hot spot” carries higher risk of transmission of the disease.

» **Who should I communicate with if I have COVID-19-related symptoms and will not be attending class or work?**

Employees should communicate with both your immediate supervisor and Human Resources at HR@stfrancis.edu.

DEFINITIONS RELATED TO FAQS

Close Contact:

- » *Living in the same household or residence hall room as a person who has lab-confirmed COVID-19;*
- » *Providing care in a household for a person who has lab-confirmed COVID-19;*
- » *Being within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. Individual exposures are added together over a 24-hour period (e.g., three 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes);*
- » *In direct contact with secretions from a person who has lab-confirmed COVID-19 or who was diagnosed with COVID-19.*

Isolation: *This term is used to separate people infected with the virus from people who are not infected.*

Quarantine: *This term is used to keep someone who has been exposed to COVID-19, but is not ill, away from others.*

NOTICE:

Answers to all questions are based on our USF

Preparedness Plan and current guidelines from:

- » **CDC (Center for Disease Control),**
- » **IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health),**
- » **IBHE (Illinois Board of Higher Education) and**
- » **WCHD (Will County Health Department) guidelines.**

These answers could change as guidelines change.