On April 22, Western Carolina University (WCU) received notice of a positive test for COVID-19 (2019 novel coronavirus) in a subcontractor working at the new Apodaca Science Building.  In compliance with requirements of the Clery Act, the University provides this emergency notification to our campus community.

The individual was tested by a private healthcare provider and ordered to comply with appropriate measures.  The individual was last on campus on April 16.  In accordance with privacy laws and University policy, we will not release any additional identifying information about this person.

The construction site was temporarily closed so that the area could be properly cleaned and sanitized.

We are taking all reasonable precautions on our campus and in our community to best promote the health and safety of our campus community. We are working closely with Jackson County Public Health officials to ensure that proper notifications are taking place.

It is important that students, faculty, and staff, whether on campus or off, continue to monitor their own health and take appropriate social distancing measures. This is vital to slowing the spread of the virus and protecting the most vulnerable in our community.

Additional safety measures include (consistent with CDC Guidelines):

* Stay home when you are sick.
* Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
* Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
* Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
* Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
* If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
* Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
* Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
* Practice social distancing
* If you are not feeling well, immediately contact your healthcare provider or [WCU Health Services](https://www.wcu.edu/experience/health-and-wellness/health-services/index.aspx).

There is community spread of COVID-19 and the numbers of individuals affected by the virus will continue to grow. Please monitor the [NC Department of Health and Human Services](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina) and the [Jackson County Department of Public Health](http://health.jacksonnc.org/) for regular updates. Also please frequently check WCU’s dedicated coronavirus [webpage](https://www.wcu.edu/coronavirus/index.aspx),

WCU Public Safety