

FAQ's for Covid19, Fall 2021

1. What kind of Covid19 tests are being offered at Health Services?

This year we have both rapid antigen and rapid molecular testing.

- The antigen testing is used for screening and surveillance
- The molecular testing is used to diagnose symptomatic Covid19 infections

During the 2020-2021 academic year, we only had rapid antigen testing, so symptomatic individuals who tested negative had to isolate while awaiting a send-off molecular test. We hope to minimize this type of isolation this year by using our rapid molecular testing on site.

2. What is a documented absence notification for Covid19?

Documented absence notifications are generated by medical providers at Health Services for students whom we have counseled to self-quarantine or to self-isolate. These students either have been exposed to an active Covid19 case, or they have an active Covid19 infection, and therefore should not attend class in order to mitigate further spread of this contagious viral infection.

3. How do I know if a documented absence notification is for an active case of Covid19 vs a student who is just quarantining?

To comply with HIPPA, Health Services does not disclose the reason for the absence notification. You will not be able to tell from the notification itself if the student is in quarantine due to exposure or isolation due to a confirmed infection.

4. Why does the length of absence notification vary from student to student?

- a. Unvaccinated students who have been exposed to an active case of Covid19 are given guidance to quarantine. A full quarantine is 14 days; however, the CDC allows for an early release at day 7 if the exposed individual has no symptoms and has a negative test. Students cleared for early release from quarantine will have a letter stating they are released from Health Services.
- b. Per CDC guidelines, vaccinated students are only to be asked to quarantine if they have symptoms that are suspicious of an early Covid19 infection. Vaccinated but exposed students should be tested 3-5 days after their exposure.
- c. Students with active Covid19 infections are instructed to self-isolate for 10 days from the start of their symptoms.
- d. Some students do not contact Health Services until several days after their exposure, or several days into their illness. Therefore, the length of their remaining quarantine or isolation may vary.

5. What if a student emails directly to a faculty member that they were exposed to Covid19 or have tested positive and no absence notification is received from student affairs?

If a student directly emails their professors when they are unable to attend class due to Covid19 related concerns, please guide them to the COVID-19 Self Reporting Form from MyWCU.

<https://home.my.wcu.edu/student/Pages/COVID-19-Self-Reporting.aspx>

This connects them to Health Services for additional medical guidance. This also allows us to ensure accurate data for campus safety measures. If students receive medical guidance off campus it does not allow us to know what is going on -on campus for our health and safety measures.

If students have questions, please ask them to contact Health Services at 828-227-7640 for a triage nurse to medically guide them.

In addition, If students, or faculty, request a documented absence notification from student affairs, please submit a report through SCRT.wcu.edu or email Kellie Angelo Monteith directly at monteith@wcu.edu

With permission from the student, a documented absence notification will be sent on their behalf to their professors.