

Communicable Disease Policy for Students

Policy Information	
Issuing Authority: Dean of Students	Effective Date: 8/1/2020
Responsible Unit: Health Services/Dean of Students	Revision Dates: 7/13/2020, 9/14/20
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Policy Summary: Cedar Crest College is committed to providing a healthy and safe learning and living environment for students. The College has implemented policies and procedures based upon the guidance, recommendations and orders provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Allentown Health Bureau, in order to maintain a safe and healthy environment that minimizes risk and helps to stop the spread of infection on campus.

Policy: This policy is only in effect for a specified communicable disease (infection) pandemic time period for which the dates will be determined by the President and Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operating Officer, in conjunction with the guidance from the state of Pennsylvania. This policy may be updated from time to time as required by changes to applicable guidance, recommendations, or orders.

DEFINITION OF “EXPOSURE”

For the purpose of College policy, “exposure” shall be defined as by the CDC, with its most recent updates, for:

- Community-Related Exposure (Individual who has had close contact (<6 feet) for 15 minutes or longer) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>),
- Healthcare Personnel (HCP) Exposure for students or College employees (such as healthcare faculty) while in an HCP role (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html>), and
- Exposure Associated with International Travel or Cruise Travel (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html>).

REPORTING KNOWN OR SUSPECTED COVID-19

Due to the contagious nature of COVID-19, it is necessary for the College to be aware of all persons diagnosed with, exposed to, or who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19. Students who are

exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, have been diagnosed with COVID-19, are suspected of having contracted COVID-19, or have been exposed to COVID-19 must notify Health Services (610-606-4640) or email nroberts@cedarcrest.edu as soon infection or exposure is known or suspected. Cedar Crest College will report all necessary information to the Allentown Health Bureau and/or PA Health Department in compliance with the applicable laws, rules, or regulations. To the extent possible, the College will maintain the confidentiality of information received as part of this policy and to protect the privacy of all parties involved.

TRAVEL TO CDC or DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WARNING AREAS

Students who must travel for personal reasons to countries rated by the CDC as Level 3 or PA's list of states with high number of COVID-19 cases (which you can find here), should be cautious and follow safety protocols while traveling. Any student who has traveled to a state or country on either of these lists may be asked to quarantine upon return, in accordance with federal and state guidelines. Please contact covidresponse@cedarcrest.edu about your travel plans. Where possible and appropriate, the College can assist students in being tested for COVID-19 upon return, which would require quarantining only until the test result is returned (typically 48-72 hours).

SYMPTOMATIC or SICK STUDENTS

Any student who has symptoms of COVID-19 or who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 is not permitted to attend in-person instruction, campus events, or access campus buildings. Traditional students should consult with Health Services and SAGE students should contact the primary care provider (PCP) regarding their symptoms and the potential for testing and to discuss next steps. Symptoms of COVID-19 and Return to In-Person Instruction guidelines are included at the end of this policy.

Class absences due to documented COVID-19 symptoms, diagnosis, or exposure will be not be penalized. In the case that a student is absent from class for more than 10 days or more, or hospitalized and/or suffering from complications, the student will be required to provide a medical release in order to return to classes.

All information related to the reason(s) for a student's absence due to an infectious disease, are kept confidential to the extent protected by applicable laws.

Student who may need to be absent for an extended period should contact the Dean of Students Success (cstaylor@cedarcrest.edu) to discuss their academic options moving forward.

Residential students will be provided with instruction on safe housing when they notify Health Services of their symptoms or diagnosis.

STUDENTS LIVING WITH FAMILY MEMBERS WITH SUSPECTED OR KNOWN COVID-19

Commuter students must not attend in-person instruction, campus events, or access campus buildings if they have a household member at home suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19. Residential students who have visited a household with a suspected or diagnosed case of COVID-19 must not attend in-person instruction, campus events, or access campus buildings. Students must notify Health Services (610-606-4640) or email nroberts@cedarcrest.edu if they have been exposed to a family member to discuss next steps.

STUDENTS WHO MAY BE AT RISK FOR MEDICAL REASONS

Students with chronic health conditions, who are concerned that they may be more vulnerable if exposed to COVID-19, should consult with their treating specialists to determine preventative health measures. Students may also contact Health Services (610-606-4640) or email nroberts@cedarcrest.edu. Students with chronic health conditions can also contact Learning and Disability Resources (610-606-4628) or email advising@cedarcrest.edu to request accommodations.

MONITORING AND SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

Every member of the Cedar Crest community is responsible for doing their part to maintain a safe and healthy environment for our entire campus community. The effectiveness of prevention and mitigation strategies requires all members of the College community to comply fully with the plans, policies and procedures outlined in this document. Failure to do so may result in corrective action.

Students who come to campus daily must be free of illness. Residential students must be free of illness to leave their rooms to go to class or any other activities. Every member of our community must conduct symptom monitoring every day prior to coming to campus or going to class.

Information from the CDC states that people with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms—ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19 and should stay home and not attend in-person instruction or any other College event:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

This list is not all possible symptoms. Other less common symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Pink eye has also been linked with COVID-19. Students who have any symptoms should not attend class. Traditional students should contact Health Services and SAGE students should contact their primary care provider (PCP).

GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AFTER SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 ILLNESS

Students will receive further instruction once they report their symptoms or diagnosis of COVID-19 to Health Services. Guidelines to return to in-person instruction may include, but are not be limited to:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- No fever for at least 72 hours without medications (such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, etc.). It is recommended that the body temperature not be above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (PA Department of Health order states ≥ 100.4 should be sent home).
- At least 3 days have passed following the resolution of symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath). Indicators of this may include:
 - Ability to take 3 deep breaths without coughing
 - Ability to climb a flight of steps (10 to 12) without significantly more shortness of breath than the person's usual baseline
 - No coughing during a 5-minute conversation
- If prior hospitalization with COVID-19, students must wait 7 days after resolution of symptoms

Note: Fatigue or any other symptoms (than listed above) beyond mild residual may require a greater period of home recovery time and any worsening symptoms should be medically reassessed. COVID-19 illness may vary significantly in severity and time to recovery, and there will be individual factors that must be considered in the process.

Additional documentation from a treating health care provider may be requested.

Revision History:

- Definition of “exposure” added to policy on 7/13/2020
- Section on “Travel to CDC or Department of Health Warning Areas” added to policy on 9/14/20