

**Guidelines for Prevention and Management of SARS-CoV-2 Infection and COVID-19**  
**College of Veterinary Medicine**  
**Auburn University**  
**Posted on August 6, 2020**

The Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) will act in accordance with Auburn University (AU) and Auburn University Medical Clinic (AUMC) policies, directives, and guidelines in addressing potential or confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 disease in employees, students and guests on the CVM campus. AUMC is operated by East Alabama Medical Center (EAMC). Medical services to CVM Community members may be provided by AUMC, EAMC, or another medical provider. This guidance is provided by the Office of the Dean with contributions from the CVM Executive Committee and the CVM Infection Control Committee and will be updated as needed.

For comprehensive information regarding COVID-19 and Auburn University please visit [aub.ie/covid19](http://aub.ie/covid19) and <https://ahealthieru.auburn.edu/>

**DEFINITIONS**

***Contact Tracing*** is a process to identify individuals that may have been exposed to a person who has tested positive with COVID-19 or a person who is presumptive positive based on symptoms. Personal health information is confidential and the name of the person related to the potential exposure will not be identified. All faculty, staff, graduate students, and veterinary students testing positive for COVID-19 will be asked to provide a daily log of Credible Close Contacts (defined below) to facilitate contact tracing. A smart phone app that facilitates contact tracing through Bluetooth signaling is in final stages of testing and should be available for use by the CVM Community in the near future. Until then, manual recording of Credible Close Contacts is advised.

***Credible Close Contact*** is an interaction lasting for a period of at least 15 minutes or more in a proximity of 6 feet or less within an enclosed environment starting from 48 hours before the person began feeling sick until the time they were isolated from others. The consistent wearing of face covers is a significant inhibitor of SARS-CoV-2 transmission during Credible Close Contact. Consistent wearing of face covers reduces the likelihood of transmission in such situations. CDC guidance on [close contact](#) should be reviewed.

***CVM Community*** includes, but is not limited to, all employees of the CVM (faculty, staff, GTA (including residents), GRA, interns, TES, undergraduate student workers), students, and other AU employees assigned to work at the CVM. Contracted employees are not considered CVM Community members, but will adhere to their employers' protocols as approved by AU.

***Decontamination*** is a careful cleaning and disinfection of high-touch and general surfaces in areas where sick or exposed individuals were present. If possible, the room where known or suspected infected individuals were present should remain empty for one hour to allow for air exchange. Generally, the room/area would be wiped down with a disinfectant and closed for the appropriate contact time as indicated by the manufacturer instructions. Depending on the size and contents of the room, it may be possible to treat the room/area with a disinfectant vapor. Currently, the teaching hospital will use the

HALO system (hydrogen peroxide vapor as a mechanism for additional disinfection). For all other CVM locations, ABM will use an electrostatic spray ([VIREX II-256](#)) as a method for additional disinfection.

**Exposure** is a recent Credible Close Contact with a person who is presumptive-positive based on symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2.

**Healthcheck** is the official AU health monitoring survey, administered through the [GuideSafe](#) platform. **Completing of Healthcheck is required to be completed daily by students, staff and faculty no later than August 10, 2020.** To access, login to [AU Access](#) and view the **Employees** or **Students** folder (as applicable to the CVM Community member) to find the GuideSafe icon. Healthcheck is monitored and maintained centrally by AU. Daily completion of Healthcheck is a best practice for individual preventive care and the college's general health. Please note that the AU CVM has developed its own daily health assessment program for clinical trainees through a Qualtrics Survey. This will be gradually phased out in favor of the AU GuideSafe Healthcheck. Those individuals receiving daily reminders for the Qualtrics survey should continue responding until the reminders end.

**Response Coordinators** are designated points of contact for CVM Community members with possible, presumptive or diagnosed infection. Typically, the Alabama Department of Public Health is responsible for contact tracing. Due to the high volume of COVID-19 cases, AUMC is expediting the contact tracing process for AU employees and students who are tested at the AUMC. The CVM, under guidance from AUMC, is assisting with the internal CVM contact tracing process in full cooperation with the CVM Community member. Every effort is made to alert close contacts as rapidly and sensitively as possible while taking measures to protect CVM Community member's confidentiality. [The Response Coordinators do not deliver medical advice; however, they oversee the consistent application of return-to-work status as recommended by AUMC.]

**Response Coordinators** facilitate management of COVID-19 cases and potential exposures in the College and facilitate the return of CVM Community members back into the College, as directed by a licensed health care provider. Current Response Coordinators are assigned according to CVM Community member classification. This list is subject to update:

**DVM students:** Dr. Brandi Brunson: [brunsbl@auburn.edu](mailto:brunsbl@auburn.edu)

**Graduate students:** Amelia Pendleton: [hangam@auburn.edu](mailto:hangam@auburn.edu)

**Employees and all other categories:** Cathy Antee ([cma0057@auburn.edu](mailto:cma0057@auburn.edu)) and Nichole Diehl ([nsd0011@auburn.edu](mailto:nsd0011@auburn.edu))

**Second Generation Exposure** is a person's recent contact with an individual who is not confirmed to have COVID-19, but who has recently had close contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19.

**Symptoms** of COVID-19 may include cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fever, congestion, runny nose, chills, muscle pain or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, myalgia, fatigue, nausea or vomiting and/or diarrhea.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **Members of the CVM Community Testing Positive for COVID-19**

- The person testing positive must stay at home (must not come to school or work) and follow the advice of his/her health care provider.
- The affected person must notify their supervisor and Response Coordinator immediately and be prepared to provide a list of Credible Close Contacts within the CVM over the last 48 hours. All personal health information is treated as confidential.
- The affected person must not return to school or work until directed by AUMC or their licensed health care provider. The Response Coordinator must be informed by the health care provider of the designated return date to facilitate re-assumption of responsibilities and management of responsibilities of other impacted persons. Provision of this information is the responsibility of the affected person.

### **Members of the CVM Community Experiencing Symptoms or with Exposure to a Credible Close Contact**

- The affected person (see [Symptoms](#) from CDC and listed above) must stay at home (must not come to school or work), follow guidance from his/her/their health care provider, monitor symptoms and check body temperature twice each day. In cases of exposure without symptoms, responsibilities of the individual (e.g. are they [permitted to continue work based on CDC guidelines](#)) may be considered.
- If symptoms develop while an affected person is on campus or when he/she/they learn of exposure, the person must notify the supervisor and Response Coordinator and leave campus immediately. The supervisor will ensure that essential work responsibilities are reassigned. The affected person should monitor symptoms and check body temperature twice each day.
- The affected person must contact the AUMC by telephone during business hours (334-844-9825) or EAMC COVID-19 hotline outside of business hours (334-528-7425) for instructions before going to the clinic or hospital for testing.
- If another health care provider is used for testing, the results must be communicated promptly to the AUMC by the affected person.
- The affected person must be prepared to provide a list of Credible Close Contacts within the CVM over the last 48 hours. All health information is confidential. This will be facilitated by each person's daily log of Credible Close Contacts.
- The affected person must not return to school or work until directed by AUMC or another health care provider. The Response Coordinator must be informed by the health care provider of the designated return date to facilitate re-assumption of responsibilities and management of responsibilities of other impacted persons. Provision of this information is the responsibility of the affected person.
- A symptomatic person (see Symptoms above) who is not tested for COVID-19 must self-isolate for 14 days.

### **Members of the CVM Community Actively Seeking Testing or Having a Pending Test Result**

- A person experiencing symptoms who is actively seeking testing or who has a pending test result due to a known exposure or symptoms must self- quarantine and not come to campus while awaiting test results. The affected person should follow guidance from his/her/their health care provider.
- The affected person must contact the designated Response Coordinator. The affected person must be prepared to provide a list of Credible Close Contacts within the CVM over the last 48 hours. All employee health information will be treated as confidential.
- The affected person must not return to school or work until directed by AUMC or another health care provider and the Response Coordinator is informed of the return date.

*Note: CVM Community members being tested who have had no known exposure and have no symptoms may continue to work normally while awaiting test results. If test results are negative, they may continue to work as usual. If test results are positive, he/she/they must not report to campus and must contact the designated Response Coordinator.*

### **Members of the CVM Community having a Second Generation Exposure**

- Continue to report to work as scheduled if no symptoms are present.
- Monitor symptoms and check body temperature twice each day.
- Contact the AUMC or EAMC with any questions or concerns about personal health.
- Physical distancing, wearing a face cover, and practicing good hygiene are the most effective ways to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2. All individuals should stay home, limit exposure to others, avoid large groups and continue to practice physical distancing from those outside of the established household group.

### **In All Circumstances**

- CVM Community members are advised to contact the AUMC or EAMC with any questions or concerns about their personal health. Contact numbers are listed below.
- PHYSICAL DISTANCING is the most effective way to prevent transmission of COVID-19. Stay home as much as possible, and when it is necessary to go out, practice physical distancing from those outside of your established household group. Do not interact closely with individuals outside of the established household group unless following strict biosafety guidelines.
- Hands should be washed with soap using 20 seconds of friction or sanitized using alcohol-based hand rub frequently, especially after contacting high-touch surfaces.
- Cloth face covers or medical/surgical masks are required for all CVM Community members while on the AU campus in accordance with the Auburn University's current mandate and the Alabama statewide mask order.
- Routine cleaning and disinfection of individual work areas is the responsibility of CVM Community members and should be practiced frequently with an emphasis on high-touch surfaces
- Check body temperature at least once per day and watch for [symptoms](#). If possible, stay away from people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

- All CVM Community members should avoid close interactions with others outside of their household, large crowds, and other high risk activities while outside of work. When such interactions are absolutely necessary, follow recommended COVID-19 preventive measures.
- Decontamination procedures should be followed in all areas possibly contaminated. The Response Coordinators will alert the appropriate parties clean the area(s). Department heads and/or unit directors will be notified when the decontamination procedure is completed.

## **RESOURCES**

**Appendix A:** Flowchart for Management of Cases and Potential Exposures

**Appendix B:** Relative Risks of Common Activities

[Isolation and Quarantine Timeframes for COVID-19](#) from the Alabama Department of Public Health

## **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

Auburn University Medical Clinic: (334) 844-9825, <https://cws.auburn.edu/aumc/pm/COVID-19>

East Alabama Medical Center COVID Hotline: (334) 528-7425

Dr. Brandi Brunson: 334-740-5583 (Student Emergency Line), 334-844-0726 (Greene Hall Office Line), [brunsbl@auburn.edu](mailto:brunsbl@auburn.edu)

Amelia Pendleton: (334) 844-3700; [hangam@auburn.edu](mailto:hangam@auburn.edu)

Cathy Antee: (334) 740-0657, [cma0057@auburn.edu](mailto:cma0057@auburn.edu)

Nichole Diehl: (334) 734-2085, [nsd0011@auburn.edu](mailto:nsd0011@auburn.edu)

## Appendix A

### Procedure for Handling COVID-19 Exposure in AUCVM Employees





