

# Secure Assessment for FSU Exposure Response: SAFER

The SAFER Team works with students, faculty, and staff who have been exposed to or tested positive for COVID-19 to provide contact assessment and support. Utilizing best practices established by the Florida Department of Health, SAFER works closely with the Leon County Health Department's contact tracing efforts. The SAFER team understands university policies and resources available should you need it, logs support and response by the university, and provides epidemiological reports to FSU leadership to make informed decisions and protect the health of the campus community.

The SAFER team is made up of public health experts such as epidemiologists and contact reviewers. If you are exposed while on campus or if you test positive for COVID-19, expect a call from the SAFER team. All information will remain fully confidential. Please be ready for their call and pick up the phone. The health of the FSU community relies on each of us doing our part.

Working closely with University Health Services and the Leon County Health Department, the SAFER team will help you know when you are approved to return to campus activities.

The SAFER team provides the following services:

- Confidential notification of exposures
- Confidential review of potential contacts
- Practical guidance for COVID-19 exposure response
- Epidemiological assessment of infection on campus
- Referrals for academic, personal and financial challenges for those affected by COVID-19
- Coordination with other university stakeholders to ensure a cohesive, timely response to infections on campus.

## PREVENT



- Social Distancing
- Handwashing
- Symptom Checking
- Clean Surfaces

## TEST



- FSU-TMH Rapid Response Diagnostic Lab
- UHS and COM test sites

## ASSESS



- SAFER Team Contact Assessment and Exposure Guidance
- UHS Clinical Support

## PROTECT



- Stay home if symptomatic
- Stay home if instructed
- Access FSU Support Resources

## Why is contact assessment important?

Contact assessment helps us reach those who are asymptomatic or who may not have developed symptoms yet. It is an important follow-up for those who test positive, and cooperation is important to prevent the spread of the virus across campus, even those who have not tested positive themselves. We will help you know when you should stay home and when you may return to campus if you have been exposed.

The SAFER Team works closely with the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) in Leon County, FSU's Public Health faculty, and on-campus clinicians at University Health Services and the College of Medicine.

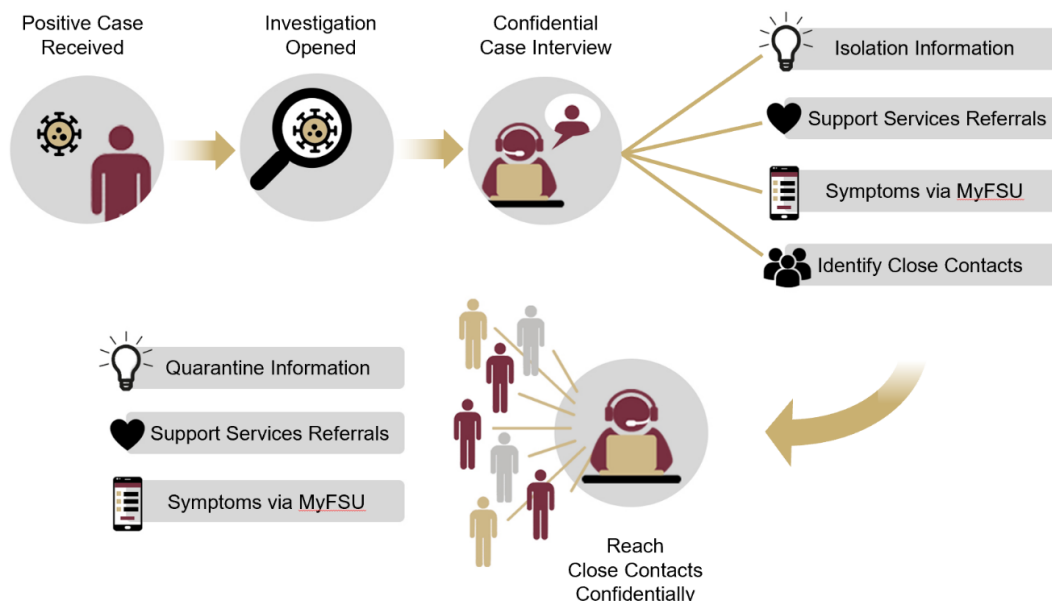
## What counts as close contact?

According to the [CDC](#), close contact is defined as:

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 continuous minutes
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.

## What is the contact assessment process?

SAFER staff are trained on confidentiality and public health, and their guidance is informed by Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, FDOH, and our SAFER epidemiology team. You may be referred to make a telehealth appointment at UHS or with your primary care physician if you develop symptoms or if your symptoms worsen during your illness. While you are recovering or quarantining, SAFER connects you with support available on campus.



### **When will I be cleared to return to campus?**

FSU utilizes CDC criteria to determine when those who are positive or exposed may return to normal campus activities.

- If you are a student who has been exposed but does not develop symptoms, SAFER will stay in touch with you and let you know when you may resume normal campus activities.
- If you are a student with symptoms under the care of UHS, UHS will let you know when you may return to campus activities.
- If you are an employee, SAFER will stay in touch with you and let you know when you are approved to return to campus in accordance with HR policy.

### **What other functions does SAFER perform?**

Our epidemiologists are working to keep tabs on infection levels on campus and provide reports to leadership for informed decision-making.