**Communication Protocol – Student Illness Reporting – COVID-19**

1. **Student undergoing COVID-19 testing**

Please follow the communication protocol below, for any students that have notified you that they have been tested for COVID-19.

1. Student notifies you that they have been tested for COVID-19.
2. Reassure the student that VIU will support them.
3. Let the student know that it is up to them to determine if they want to self-disclose if the test is positive. VIU will likely not be notified by the health authority.
4. Let the student know that if they self-disclose, VIU will keep this information private, however there may be responses required at the University and/or with public health that disclose a positive case on campus, which could include class locations, recent activities (e.g. library, campus store).

**Positive Test Result**

1. If the student confirms they have been tested positive, again reassure them that VIU will support them. Faculty can currently waive the requirement for a doctor’s note.
2. Encourage the student to follow the Health Authority instructions.
3. The faculty member or person receiving this report should be prepared to provide information around the student’s class schedule, if available.
4. Please report a positive case of COVID-19 to the Dean’s office immediately and to [Erin Bascom](mailto:erin.bascom@viu.ca?subject=Positive%20student%20COVID-19%20case%20reported)/[Kim Sharpe](mailto:kim.sharpe@viu.ca?subject=Positive%20student%20COVID-19%20case%20reported). VIU will reach out to Public Health for assistance on managing a positive case on campus. This is private information and faculty members should not share this information beyond these people.
5. VIU will take their lead on communication from Public Health, so no information should be shared by the faculty member, except to the Deans office and to Health and Safety, until Erin or Kim has made contact and the faculty member has received clear direction. Public Health is responsible for [contact tracing](https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/covid-19-contact-information) however VIU may be able to provide assistance to expedite this process as well as to determine appropriate communication for VIU. VIU has a Case Coordination and Support Team that is made up of a few key VIU Departments that may also be involved as required (e.g. Student Affairs, VIU Residences, and Communications).
6. Return to campus: A student diagnosed with COVID-19 must follow all guidance from Public Health, their health care provider or the [BCCDC,](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation) including instructions on [self-isolation](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation) before returning to learning activities both on and off campus. Steps on returning to campus following illness should be discussed with their Instructor prior to returning to campus.

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| **Ending Self-Isolation and Returning to Learning Activities** |
| **BCCDC Self Isolation Requirements can be found** [**HERE**](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation/close-contacts)  **Step 1: The following criteria are met:**   1. At least 10 days have passed since any symptoms started, and…    * Your fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing medications (e.g. Tylenol, Advil), and    * You are feeling better (there is improvement in runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue). Coughing may go on for several weeks, so a cough alone does not mean you need to continue to self-monitor and self-isolate. 2. You were self-monitoring and never developed any symptoms, or 3. You were tested and the result was negative.   **Step 2: Consult with a health care provider** by either calling 811 or contacting your physician to verify that you have met the criteria.  **Step 3: Contact your Instructor** to discuss your return to your learning activities. |

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