



To the Blue Ridge CTC Community:

This memo is to define when and how the College notifies its community of confirmed positive COVID individuals. There is information that is being passed around via social media that doesn't accurately explain the College's reporting and notification process.

What is the College's responsibility concerning notification and tracing of confirmed positive COVID individuals?

It is first important to understand that the College is not responsible for contact tracing. There is a partnership with the local health departments and State officials for such tracing. The key is understanding what constitutes an exposure. Just because a confirmed positive COVID individual may have been on campus, an exposure may not have occurred. The local health department determines exposure and will notify the exposed individuals. The College will notify the potentially affected individuals or community at large should the health department trace an exposure to the College.

What/Who determines an exposure?

Exposure determinations are assessed and determined by the local health department. The College is strictly following PPE guidelines (mask, face shields, etc) and physical distancing for all on campus activities. This severely limits exposure potential. To be considered exposed to COVID-19, you have to have had close contact with someone with COVID-19. Close contact includes:

- Living with a person who has COVID-19
- Providing care for a person who has COVID-19
- Being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more, or
- Having exposure to respiratory secretions from a person with COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing a drinking glass or utensils, kissing)

Another critical factor is when the individual was exposed to a COVID positive individual in relationship to their last on campus presence. This gap is closely monitored and generally, the gap is 10-14 days since last on campus. Even online/remote persons are asked to report so the College can help determine if there was an on campus presence that needs monitored.

Has the College had any determined exposures?

As of this memo, there has been no determined exposure to report or notify. Blue Ridge CTC honors transparency and should there be a determined exposure, notification will be sent.

Does the College report confirmed positive COVID cases?

The College reports confirmed COVID positive numbers weekly to the WVCTCS. Names are not shared. COVID related reporting includes confirmed positives, hospitalizations, deaths, and quarantines. The College will reach out to every reported positive individual to gather information for this reporting and to share community or College resources. The College has reported confirmed positive COVID individuals but again, there has been no determined exposure on campus.

Where can I find the protocol?

A full protocol of how to report positive COVID testing for students or employees can be found on website [blueridgectc.edu/COVID19](https://www.blueridgectc.edu/COVID19) page. Return to class or work guidelines are also included in that protocol.

What can I do to limit exposure?

Continue to wear your face covering, maintain physical distance, wash your hands diligently, and participate in sanitizing your work or class space. These actions are the primary opportunities of reducing exposure.

If you have symptoms, please notify your faculty or supervisor and do not go on campus. The College cannot mandate testing or provide medical advice. Individuals are highly encouraged to seek medical advice from their primary physician regarding COVID19 testing and treatment.

Symptoms include one or more of the following:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Runny nose or new sinus congestion
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- New GI symptoms
- New loss of taste or smell

When should I seek emergency medical attention?

Look for emergency warning signs* for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

Blue Ridge's Complete Return to Campus information can be found at:

<https://www.blueridgectc.edu/about-blue-ridge/coronavirus-information>

#BRCTCUnity