

Dec 12, 2020

## Frequently Asked Questions - COVID-19 (Staff and Faculty)

COVID-19 continues to be a concern in our lives, especially as local case numbers rise. Much of our communication has been focused on ensuring students are aware of our protocols, however, I know staff and faculty also have many questions. Here is some information specifically for staff and faculty, but if you have additional questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

### **When should I be tested for COVID-19?**

If you have any cold or flu symptoms (fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, diarrhea or vomiting) you should probably be tested for COVID-19. The current recommendation for children is if anyone develops symptoms, everyone in your family should isolate for 24 hours and see how everyone is feeling after that. If all symptoms disappear or get drastically better, then no one needs to be tested. While this is not currently the recommendation for adults, I believe it is a fair way of gauging if you actually need to be tested. The BC government also has a great website to see if you need to be tested. It is:

<https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>

### **How do I get tested for COVID-19?**

If you think you need to be tested for COVID-19, you DO NOT NEED to call 8-1-1. At Island Health (Victoria and the Island), you need to call 1-844-901-8442 between 8:30am and 4:30pm to book a test. The closest testing site to the college is at Juan de Fuca Recreation Center. You must book an appointment. There are also testing sites at UVic and downtown. Again, you must book an appointment for whichever site you choose.

### **How do I know if I am at risk of getting COVID-19?**

People are most likely to be infectious two days before they start showing symptoms, and during the first day or two they are sick. The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) defines 'close contact' as more than 15 minutes together in an enclosed space with no mask or with a fabric mask during the time in which the other person was infectious. It is possible to get sick from someone you pass in the grocery store, but this is very unlikely. We are really at risk from people we see regularly for longer periods of time.

**What should I do if I have been in contact with someone who is being tested for COVID-19 or who has a confirmed case of COVID-19?**

If someone you have been in close contact with is being tested for COVID-19, you should probably also isolate or at least not come to campus until they have their tests results. If that person tests positive for COVID-19, you should isolate right away even if the BCCDC has not yet called you. If the BCCDC has not called you within two days of the person testing positive, you are not considered to have been in close contact and you can resume normal activities. If you are concerned about whether you should come to campus, please call me and we can talk through your specific situation as every situation is different. My cell is 604-349-0637.

### **What will happen if someone in the Pearson community tests positive for COVID-19?**

If someone in the Pearson community tests positive for COVID-19 or I think they are a highly probable case, I will start contact tracing right away. This means that I, or another member of the leadership team, may call you and ask you to isolate. I tend to err on the side of caution, so you may be told to isolate and then, after talking to you in more detail or after speaking to the BCCDC, you may be told you do not need to isolate. In this case, you will be contacted and advised to resume normal activities. While it is inconvenient to isolate, I would rather be overly cautious than miss a possible exposure. If you have to isolate, the College will do everything possible to support you. This also raises the delicate issue of confidentiality. We will likely not tell you exactly who is sick for confidentiality reasons. If you do find out who the person is, **please respect their privacy.**

### **What should I do if the BCCDC calls and says I have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person?**

The best course of action is to call me right away to discuss a plan. If you have been exposed, but you are not sick, then it is likely the rest of the community is at limited risk. That said, we will still need to determine the best course of action on a case by case basis.

### **Here are some other reliable places to get more information about COVID-19:**

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/common-questions>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>

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