

Dear Colleagues,

I'm writing to update you on how COVID-19 testing is progressing on our campus now that students have moved in and the semester has begun.

As of 9/3/20, MCLA has identified 1 case of COVID-19. In accordance with state guidelines, we are collaborating with the individual who has tested positive and is in isolation to immediately implement the required safety protocols.

MCLA's COVID-19 testing dashboard can be found on our COVID-19 site www.mcla.edu/covid-19. The dashboard reflects all results for MCLA's testing program in partnership with the Broad Institute. Please note that the aggregate numbers reported on the dashboard include additional tests conducted on individuals who test positive to verify the accuracy of the original result; this aggregate is a representation of the number of tests administered, not the number of individuals tested. The dashboard will be updated weekly as our testing program unfolds for the semester.

The Berkshire County DPH nurse, Leslie Drager, receives all MCLA test results. She will call anyone whose test is positive to provide instructions for isolation and to contact trace for those who may have had close contact with the positive individual. She will contact those who have potentially been exposed to a person testing positive for COVID and provide instructions for the next steps as outlined in our measures for students or employees who are suspected to have been exposed to the positive individual. It is imperative that anyone who is contacted by Leslie answer her call and cooperate fully with her instructions for next steps.

Students testing positive will also be contacted by Health Services who will monitor health regularly. Faculty and staff testing positive should contact Human Resources and their own medical provider for further instructions. Employees who are symptomatic should NOT seek testing through Health Services. MCLA will be following federal laws related to health and personal information and will not publicly identify the individuals exposed to the virus or their roles on campus.

As a reminder, students were required to develop an isolation plan in the event of exposure, and MCLA has set aside a number of townhouses for isolation of resident students who test positive for COVID-19. When possible, students who test positive for COVID are encouraged to isolate at home where they will have a family support system to aid them as they recuperate, particularly if they are feeling sick and need in person care. Those who have been exposed to the virus are required to quarantine for a period of 14 days.

Employee Testing

Asymptomatic campus employees will be offered one test each in the months of September, October, and November in parallel to our student surveillance testing program. Testing will be offered during the following time periods each week beginning on Monday, September 14:

Mondays between 8:30 and 10 a.m.
Thursdays between 1:30 and 2:15 p.m.

Testing is by appointment only and takes only minutes to complete. To make an appointment, sign up [here](#). You must bring a picture ID and a signed consent form, [Employee Consent Form](#). Please arrive at Health Services on time as the schedule is tight and limited to ensure social distancing. Again, please do NOT make or keep an appointment if you are symptomatic or feeling unwell.

If you have additional questions regarding MCLA's testing procedures, response to COVID-19, or fall semester planning, please visit www.mcla.edu/covid-19 or contact me directly with any questions.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we continue to implement measures to keep our community as safe as possible this semester during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,
Gina

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