

Dear Postgraduate Dental Education Students,

As the COVID-19 pandemic remains a concern and risk in clinical learning, we wanted to provide you information to help guide your decision making. While the guidelines from public health and our health care partners may and will change, these are the current recommendations. As always, you should consult with Public Health if you have any questions or reach out to Learner Experience.

**Commonly asked questions:**

**What does the government lockdown announced on December 21<sup>st</sup> mean for me?**

If you travelled outside of the province and returned during the Provincewide Shutdown Period, which starts 12:01 December 26, 2020, you will need to **self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival to the province.** [Provincewide Shutdown \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/page/provincewide-shutdown)

**If you suspect you have COVID 19.**

If you have symptoms consistent with a presentation of COVID 19 or fail the COVID screen for the health facility or Western, please **STAY HOME, self-isolate and follow guidelines from Public Health Ontario.**

You will need to:

- Notify Dr. Sandra Northcott, Associate Dean Learner Experience Office and Dr. Ali Tassi, Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Dental Education, (for absence from clinical activities or any didactic activities).
- Arrange to get a COVID test as soon as possible as you may not be able to return to school/clinic without a negative test result. The turn around time for test results at the community assessment centres is normally 24 hours.

**If you are diagnosed with COVID-19 by criteria (and you are engaged in hospital based clinical learning):**

- You **MUST STAY HOME**, self-isolate and follow guidelines from Public Health Ontario.
- Consult hospital protocols as outlined in the following:
  - <https://intra.lhsc.on.ca/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/frequently-asked-questions>
  - [https://apps.lhsc.on.ca/legacy/pandemic flu/](https://apps.lhsc.on.ca/legacy/pandemic_flu/)
- Notify Dr. Sandra Northcott, Associate Dean Learner Experience Office and Dr. Ali Tassi, Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Dental Education, (for absence from clinical activities or any didactic activities).

**If you are diagnosed with COVID-19 by criteria (and you are engaged in campus based clinical or didactic learning:**

- You **MUST STAY HOME**, self-isolate and follow guidelines from Public Health Ontario.
- Notify Dr. Sandra Northcott, Associate Dean Learner Experience Office and Dr. Ali Tassi, Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Dental Education, (for absence from clinical activities or any didactic activities).

**I learned that a patient for whom I had provided care has tested COVID positive. What do I need to do?**

During your time in clinic you should always have the appropriate PPE on when interacting with patients. This means if a patient is later diagnosed as being COVID positive you will be notified but **no action** is required. As long as you were wearing your PPE and donning and doffing appropriately, you can continue in clinical learning. You will need to self monitor according to public health guidelines and seek care if your screening tool changes to positive.

If you have concerns about the PPE used or a break in your technique, you will need to stay home and get tested.

**I learned that a health professional with whom I worked closely with has tested COVID 19 positive. What do I need to do?**

During your clinical rotations you should always have the appropriate PPE on when interacting with patients, clinicians, other health professionals and colleagues. This scenario of contact with a masked clinician or colleague who was COVID compliant in technique requires no action besides self screening daily.

If a team or health care worker is later diagnosed as being COVID-19 positive, you will be notified. If you were wearing the appropriate PPE and followed technique, **no action** is required (besides self monitoring) and you can continue to work in clinical learning,

If you have concerns about the PPE used or technique followed, you will need to stay home and get tested.

**What is a “Close Contact”?**

A close contact is an individual with whom you have had a high-risk exposure. This can include individuals living together in the same household while not self-isolating; direct

contact with infectious body fluids (cough, sneezed on); close (<2m) or prolonged, unprotected contact.

The definition of a “Close Contact” was recently changed by the CDC to read:

*Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period\* starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.*

Read more on:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

### **What do I do if I have had “Close Contact” with someone who is COVID positive?**

At this time Public Health recommends asymptomatic close contacts of a confirmed case should **quarantine for 14 days** and get COVID-19 testing as soon as possible after identification of the case.

If you have had contact with someone who is COVID positive please report this absence to the School. Notify Dr. Sandra Northcott, Associate Dean Learner Experience Office and Dr. Ali Tassi, Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Dental Education, (for absence from clinical activities or any didactic activities).

### **My housemate has been diagnosed with COVID. What do I need to do?**

You will need to self-isolate at home or in a separate residence and arrange for COVID testing. Your housemate will need to stay in a separate room away from other people and use a separate bathroom if possible. Notify Dr. Sandra Northcott, Associate Dean Learner Experience Office and Dr Tassi, Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Dental Education.

### **My housemate has symptoms of COVID and is awaiting test results. What do I need to do?**

If your housemate has symptoms of COVID-19 and is awaiting test results, you should ensure that your housemate is self-isolating immediately. You also need to ensure that you are not spending time in common areas at the same time, that separate washrooms are being used if possible, and that masks are being worn by the housemate when they are in common spaces.

As your housemate is awaiting their test results, you do not need to quarantine, but you should monitor yourself for symptoms. As long as you are asymptomatic, you can

continue clinical learning. Continue to self-monitor closely and regularly for signs and symptoms suggestive of COVID-19.

If your housemate is confirmed COVID positive, you will need to self-isolate and arrange for COVID testing.

If you develop signs or symptoms of COVID-19 you must **remain at home, self-isolate and follow guidelines from Public Health Ontario**. You will need to be tested for COVID-19. Notify Dr. Sandra Northcott, Associate Dean Learner Experience Office and Dr Tassi, Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Dental Education

**My housemate received notification from the COVID Alert app that they were in contact with someone who has tested COVID positive or Public Health has notified my housemate that they were identified as a “Close Contact” of someone with COVID. What do I need to do?**

Your housemate will need to be tested for COVID-19. As long as you are asymptomatic, you can continue clinical learning and continue to monitor closely and regularly for COVID symptoms.

If your housemate develops symptoms you can continue in clinical learning but if you develop symptoms you must stay home. Notify Dr. Sandra Northcott, Associate Dean Learner Experience Office and Dr Tassi, Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Dental Education

**I received notification from the COVID Alert app that I was in contact with someone who has tested positive. What do I need to do?**

As per Public Health Ontario, <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/exposed>, if you are notified by the COVID Alert app, or think you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you must get tested. Stay home and self-isolate until you get your result.

If your test is positive you will need to continue to self-isolate for 14 days. Notify Dr. Sandra Northcott, Associate Dean Learner Experience Office and Dr Tassi, Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Dental Education

**If your test is negative, you can return to learning but continue to monitor.**

**When can I return to academic learning or clinical responsibilities?**

Once you have completed your self-isolation (COVID positive or COVID negative but a close contact of someone COVID positive) **as directed by public health**, you can return to school. You do not need to notify anyone.

## **Where can I get a COVID test ?**

### For Hospital Based Residents

Hospital-based residents can receive testing at the LHSC COVID-19 Testing Centre. To access testing for yourself, complete the [perimeter screening tool](#) and the appointment request [webform](#) and you will be contacted by the Centre by the next business day. The same [webform](#) is to be used for requesting a test for dependent children. The Testing Centre is located in Building 14 at VH, above the Wellness Centre and is open from Monday to Friday from 7:00 am - 1:00 pm

Additionally, you may attend one of the community testing centres. Information on the locations and hours of the centres (including Western's testing centre) can be found here: <https://www.healthunit.com/covid-19-concerns>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Dr Sandra Northcott, Associate Dean, Learner Experience Office (snorthc2@uwo.ca) [or Dr Ali Tassi](#) ([Ali.Tassi@schulich.uwo.ca](mailto:Ali.Tassi@schulich.uwo.ca))