

Quick Guide to COVID Protocols for Instructors and TAs

What does an instructor/TA do if they test COVID positive?

- Stay home. Do not come to campus. Notify the COVID Response Center (COVIDResponseCTR@ucmerced.edu) immediately for further instructions. Notify your department chair and work with them on appropriate arrangements to cover your class(es).

What does an instructor/TA do if one of their students tests COVID positive?

- Instruct the student to stay home and not come to class. If the student was not tested on campus, encourage them to notify the COVID Response Center immediately for further instructions. Be flexible and accommodating with make-up work for the student. Do not communicate to your class that a student has tested positive, as that will be handled by the COVID Response Center, if appropriate. Continue conducting your class as usual.

What happens if multiple students in a class test COVID positive?

- If three people in the same class test COVID positive, everyone in the class and the instructor will get a request to take a COVID test. Please complete this test on campus as soon as possible. If the cases are epidemiologically linked, those who are unvaccinated and exposed may be required to quarantine until they have a negative test result (they will receive this instruction via the COVID Response Center). Those who are vaccinated are not required to quarantine unless they are symptomatic. Note: the COVID Response Center will be collecting information about which quadrant of the room students are sitting and may utilize this information to determine potential epidemiological connection and exposure in classroom cases.

What does an instructor/TA or student do if they are exposed to COVID?

- The CDC defines exposure as prolonged contact (>15 min) in close range with a COVID positive individual. Consult the COVID Response Center if you think you might have been exposed.
- For vaccinated instructors: Testing is recommended within 3 to 5 days of the exposure. Monitor your symptoms. Only if you are symptomatic, stay home and do not come to campus. Notify the COVID Response Center and your department chair and work with them on appropriate arrangements to cover your class(es). If you are asymptomatic, you can continue your instruction activities as usual.
- For unvaccinated instructors: Stay home and do not come to campus. If you were exposed from activities off campus, notify the COVID Response Center as soon as possible. Get a test day 5 or thereafter from the exposure. Notify your department chair and work with them on appropriate arrangements to cover your class(es) until the CRC clears you to return to campus.

What does an instructor/TA do if a student says they were exposed to COVID?

- Tell the student to contact the COVID Response Center immediately for further instructions. If the student needs to be absent, be flexible and accommodating with make-up work for the student. Do not communicate to your class that a student was exposed, as that will be handled by the COVID Response Center, if appropriate. Continue conducting your class as usual.