

Section: UTMB On-line Documentation	01.50 - Policy
Subject: Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures	1.5.22 - Revised
Topic: 01.50 – COVID-19 Surveillance Policy	2020 - Author

01.50 – COVID-19 Surveillance Policy

- Purpose** Provide a safe environment in all UTMB facilities to protect employees, students, vendors, patients and visitors during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Audience** All UTMB staff and students.
- Policy**
- Will monitor COVID-19 infection rates and determine appropriate institution wide response in conjunction with the COVID-19 Task Force and Incident Command. This will be performed as frequently as necessary.
 - Will develop appropriate isolation policy based on latest CDC guidance and will be posted to the UTMB COVID-19 website which will be accessible by all UTMB employee and students. Employees and students will be provided appropriate education and training, and will be provided with appropriate personal protective equipment.
 - Will develop policy for COVID-19 exposure in healthcare setting to conduct contact investigations in conjunction with Employee Health and Student Health.
 - Will report COVID-19 test results to the health departments as per policy.

Infection Control COVID Surveillance Plan Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology Department January 1, 2022

	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
COVID INDICATORS (1-2-week average)				
Community percent positivity rate	<3%	3-7%	8-15%	>15%
Daily number of positive cases	<35	35-100	101-175	>175
Community immunization rates with <u>booster doses</u>	≥70%	50-69%	30-49%	<30%
Daily adult inpatient COVID census (%)	<25 (<3.5%)	31-75 (3.5-10%)	76-100 (10-14%)	>100 (≥15%)
INFECTION CONTROL ACTIONS				
Reporting Data to Health Department	Yes M-F	Yes M-F	Yes M-F or Daily	Yes Daily
Employee Contact Tracing and Exposure Risk assessment	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Employee Cluster Investigation	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Employee Outbreak Investigation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Investigation of Hospital Acquired COVID in Patients	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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A. CDC Guideline and TJC Survey Expectations

Create a Process to Respond to SARS-CoV-2 Exposures Among HCP and Others

- Healthcare facilities should have a plan for how SARS-CoV-2 exposures in a healthcare facility will be investigated and managed and how contact tracing will be performed.
- If healthcare-associated transmission is suspected or identified, facilities might consider expanded testing of HCP and patients as determined by the distribution and number of cases throughout the facility and ability to identify close contacts. Depending on testing resources available or the likelihood of healthcare-associated transmission, facilities may elect to initially expand testing only to HCP and patients on the affected units or departments, or a particular treatment schedule or shift, as opposed to the entire facility.
- Healthcare facilities responding to SARS-CoV-2 transmission within the facility should always notify and follow the recommendations of public health authorities.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

B. CDC: When to suspend case investigation & contact tracing activities

When an influx of positive COVID-19 cases is observed, and the organization does not have the capacity to investigate the majority of their cases. In such circumstances, case investigation, contact tracing, and risk assessments may not be an effective approach. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/when-to-investigate.html>

C. UTMB Green, Yellow, Orange Alert Levels

Follow all ICHE reporting, exposure, contact tracing, cluster, and outbreak investigation processes and policies for the following steps:

- a. Complete Reporting of Positive COVID-19 to the state health department daily and/or as determined by health department.
- b. Perform Contact tracing and risk assessment of positive employees and when breaches to patient isolation occur.
- c. Perform Cluster investigation and testing as defined by ICHE policy.
 - i. Cluster defined as 3 positive employees in one week from 1 department/unit.
- d. Monitor, trend, and perform outbreak investigations.
 - i. Outbreak defined as 3 positive employees in 72 hours from 1 department.
 - ii. Hospital Associated COVID-19 transmission: >2 patients in one unit within 1 week.

D. UTMB Red Alert Level

Infection control plan during an influx of COVID-19 cases (Red):

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1. **ICHE Continue:** Reporting Positive COVID-19 to the state health department daily and/or as determined by health department.
2. **Suspend:** Contact Tracing and Risk Assessment. The following actions will take place:
 - a. Continue sharing positive list with Employee Health and Student Health.
 - b. Employee Health will continue their processes of managing and contacting positive employees and their managers.
 - c. Employee health to continue sharing outside positive test results with ICHE.
 - d. ICHE will continue updating and reviewing Positive Employee running list.

Suspend: Cluster investigation and testing.

- a. Cluster defined as 3 positive employees in 1 week from 1 department/unit.
- b. New action: Infection Control will send a comprehensive list of positive employees every Friday to each manager on the list. This will not include a risk assessment nor exposure forms, this is just an email notification to help managers with tracking their employees.

Continue: Monitor, trend, and perform outbreak investigations and testing:

- c. Outbreak defined as 3 positive employees in 72 hours from 1 department.
 - Send email including the list of positive employees meeting outbreak definition. Recommend testing of symptomatic and asymptomatic employees within 72 hours, and leave it up to the manager's discretion to send employees to test.
- d. When managers report outbreak concerns and request department testing, ICHE will perform an investigation and coordinate actions necessary.
- e. Hospital Associated COVID-19 transmission: >2 patients in one unit within 1 week (definition may vary by department).
 - Detailed investigation will be performed to ensure Hospital Associated transmission is met.
 - When patient safety is impacted, ICHE will send an email with details explaining outbreak.
 - Employee testing may be required depending on investigation findings.