Re: Notification of Positive COVID-19 Case in Couzens Residence Hall

Environment, Health & Safety (EHS) was notified on 1/31/2021 that a resident in Couzens Residence Hall residing on the fourth floor tested positive for COVID-19. The affected person has been relocated from the building and their last date in Couzens was 1/29/2021. Spaces where the case was present have been cleaned/disinfected or have been isolated.

The B.1.1.7 variant of COVID-19 is present in the U-M community and the university is carefully implementing and considering additional mitigation measures for the entire U-M community. There are many unknowns that remain under investigation by U-M, local and state health officials.

It is imperative that everyone be extra careful, wear face coverings, avoid in-person gatherings, practice social distancing and get tested using the programs the university has in place. These measures are effective, but there is less margin for error with this more contagious version of COVID-19. This is a critical time for preventing spread of the virus – to protect one another’s health and preserve our ability to eventually resume more normal activities as we continue our efforts to vaccinate members of our community.

Public health community notification is to proactively make the U-M community aware of positive cases on campus and potential exposures. We are following our protocol for sharing publicly about potential exposures to infectious diseases, like COVID-19, mumps, and Norovirus. EHS working in conjunction with the health department has conducted a risk assessment to determine who may have been in close contact¹ with the infected individual and has provided specific instructions to those identified if quarantine is required. If you were not directly contacted by an EHS contact tracer, there is no increased risk of exposure and there is no need to quarantine or isolate. Residents and employees should continue to adhere to the guidance below.

- Wear a face covering or mask.
- Practice physical distancing by spacing yourself at least six feet away from others.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Continue to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 using the ResponsiBLUE Daily Symptom Tracker.

Winter term COVID-19 testing capacity has increased significantly and regular asymptomatic testing is available to all students, faculty and staff on the Ann Arbor campus - including Michigan Medicine - through the Community Sampling and Tracking Program.

¹ Close Contact is defined as any of the following even if you or the other person wore a mask: being less than 6 feet apart for 15 minutes or more (regardless of mask use or indoor/outdoor setting), if you were coughed on or sneezed on, hugging or kissing, sharing of utensils or drinking glasses, or are a roommate, intimate partner, or caregiver.
If you are a student and are sick or have questions related to COVID-19, call University Health Service (UHS) at 734-764-8320. U-M Ann Arbor undergraduate students who live on campus, are registered for an in-person or hybrid class, or who come to campus for research, work or other activities (e.g., libraries, union, Rec. Sports, Dining) in campus buildings are required to complete weekly mandatory COVID-19 testing through U-M.

If you are an employee and are sick or have questions related to COVID-19, call Occupational Health Services at 734-764-8021. The OHS COVID-19 Call Center is available Monday - Friday 7:00 am – 5:00 pm and Saturday 7:00am – 12:00pm. Employees calling outside of normal business hours can leave a message and OHS will follow up within 24 hours.

We want to reassure everyone that we take your health and safety seriously. Previous public health community notices can be found on the link below:
https://campusblueprint.umich.edu/dashboard/dashboard-community-notices

Additional resources regarding COVID-19 can be found on the following websites:

Campus Maize and BluePrint: https://campusblueprint.umich.edu/
Washtenaw County Health Department: https://www.washtenaw.org/3095/COVID-19
U-M Environment, Health & Safety: https://ehs.umich.edu/2020/03/24/ehs-covid-19-information/

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact EHS at EHS-Covid-19-Reporting@umich.edu.