Healthy@Centre Policy on Testing for COVID-19

Testing for COVID-19 is an evolving area worldwide. When diagnostic tests are widely available, people who test positive and have symptoms can get care earlier, contacts can be traced, and self-isolation or quarantine can be employed to help stop the spread of the virus.

Scope

The Centre College testing policy applies to all faculty, staff, and students who are working, attending classes, or living on campus.

Students taking classes on campus but living off campus need to be tested on campus on Sunday, August 23 or no later than Tuesday, August 25; they should contact the Student Health Office to make arrangements.

Any person who tests positive for COVID-19 will be required to immediately isolate and collaborate with local and state health officials, including contact tracers, to identify others who should be quarantined and tested. Anyone with a positive COVID-19 test must remain in isolation until they are told by a state or local health official that they are no longer a health risk to others.

Policy

Four stages of testing will occur prior to and during the fall semester:

1. **Pre-Term Testing**: Testing for COVID-19 will be required for all students within two weeks prior to their return to campus. All employees will be tested between August 3 and August 14 to be allowed to be on campus.

2. **Upon-Arrival Testing**: Each student moving into residence halls will be tested upon arrival to campus.

3. **Surveillance Testing**: 25 percent of the campus population will be tested each week, so that every person on campus is tested at least once per month.

4. **Symptomatic Testing**: An individual who reports symptoms or is identified as a close contact of a positive case must be tested immediately and quarantined. Testing of students will be provided by the Student Health Center.

**NOTE**: In coordination with student and employee insurance coverage, Centre College will offset the cost of Upon-Arrival Testing and Surveillance Testing during the fall semester.

Types of Testing

Currently, there are two types of viral tests approved by the FDA for diagnosis of COVID-19 that Centre College will use for all of our testing protocols:
The molecular test detects genetic material by a laboratory method called polymerase chain reaction (PCR). A healthcare worker collects fluid from a nasal or throat swab, or from saliva. The PCR tests can be sensitive and accurate, but slow to yield results.

The newer antigen test detects protein components of the virus. Faster and less expensive than the PCR test, a positive antigen test is considered very accurate. However, there is an increased chance of false negative results due to lower sensitivity. The PCR test is often used to confirm a negative antigen test.

Both types of diagnostic tests are available in Danville, and Centre College has partnerships with a number of providers for different phases of testing. A third type of test, called serology testing, is only done after full recovery from COVID-19, and it detects antibodies against the virus. The antibody test is not recommended in most cases, since timing and other factors influence the ability to detect an individual’s immune response, and because this test is characterized by high rates of false positives.

Testing for COVID-19 has become much more broadly available than in the early months of the pandemic. However, a nation-wide increase in positive cases and demand for testing may limit the availability of testing supplies. Therefore, the College’s testing policy must remain flexible, as research is done and experience is amassed.

Procedures

1. Pre-Term Testing

For Students:

You must be tested for COVID-19 (viral diagnostic PCR or antigen tests, not antibody tests) within two weeks prior to your move-in date. You will then upload your test results to a secure site on Centrenet through a Moodle page that has been set up for this purpose. You will receive an email that provides a link to the site you must use to report your test results (whether the result is negative or positive for COVID-19).

If you have exhausted all options and are unable to be tested prior to arrival, you must notify the Student Health Office as soon as this is apparent, and you will be given further instructions.

If you test positive for COVID-19, you will not be allowed to return to campus until you are medically cleared to do so. It will be important to stay in touch with the Residence Life Office, in particular, to arrange a later move-in date.

For Faculty and Staff:

Any employee who will be working on campus, full-time or part-time, must be tested and report a negative COVID-19 test between August 3 and August 19. On-campus testing is currently available for faculty and staff (see email from Human Resources). If you use an off-campus testing site, be sure you get a “PCR” or “antigen” test (both require a nasopharyngeal
swab), not an antibody test, which would require a blood draw. If you test positive for COVID-19, you will not be allowed to return to campus until you are medically cleared to do so.

2. Upon-Arrival Testing

Every student who is living on campus this fall will be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival to campus. This test will be arranged for you as part of your on-campus move-in, when room keys are picked up. This test will be conducted by health officials on campus at no additional charge to students. Students will then move into their rooms and will be required to confine, with limited mobility, until the test result is found to be negative, which may be several days.

3. Surveillance Testing

Throughout the fall semester, Centre will test 25 percent of the campus population each week so that every person on campus is tested at least once a month.

4. Symptomatic Testing

For Students:

For students with symptoms of COVID-19, or for students who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, testing will be coordinated by the Student Health Office. Members of the campus community will be made aware of local facilities where testing can be performed. The Student Health Office will maintain regular contact with the local health department, which will provide guidance on testing in the event of an outbreak.

For Faculty and Staff:

For employees who report symptoms of COVID-19 or for those who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, the need for testing will be determined by healthcare providers. Close contacts of positive cases should be tested within 36 hours. There are several local facilities where testing can be performed.

The Centre College Approach to Testing

In addition to key guidelines at the national level, the College has been informed by guidance from the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s Healthy at Work Testing Plan, which states, “The primary role of a testing plan in the workplace is to quickly determine whether employees showing symptoms are COVID-19 positive so that appropriate measures are taken to provide care to the individual and to prevent further spread in the workplace and community.” Testing plans must include these components:

- A protocol should be in place to conduct daily temperature and COVID-19 symptoms checks.
• Those with symptoms should be instructed to stay home and should be referred for testing. Businesses should be able to “identify close contacts of cases in the workplace and encourage them to quarantine and get tested.”
• Employers should share resources where an employee can get tested using accurate and appropriate tests.
• It is not recommended that employers require a negative test for return to work.

Kentucky Department of Public Health return to work guidance is available. The health department or a healthcare provider may give direction.

NOTE: Testing is an area that continues to change rapidly. At this time, it is difficult to obtain rapid point-of-care, CLIA waived tests that could be utilized in the student health office. Turnaround time for test results varies widely. The CDC has recognized that institutions of higher education may employ entry and asymptomatic testing strategies as a way of determining the prevalence of the virus within the community. Kentucky’s Healthy at Work Testing Plan says, “In certain high-risk work environments (such as congregate living facilities, prisons, and other specific situations), it may be appropriate to conduct widespread testing of employees. Your local health department can help determine if this is needed.”

Definitions

• Viral diagnostic test: A test that measures viral genetic material (RNA) or protein, and is indicative of a current infection
• Antibody test: a positive result indicates a previous infection

References and Related Resources

• CDC on IHE testing  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/ihe-testing.html
• FAQs, Johns Hopkins  https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/coronavirus-test-what-you-need-to-know
• Types of COVID-19 tests  https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02140-8
• Antibody and other types of tests  https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/expert-answers/covid-antibody-tests/faq-20484429