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## **Student Respiratory Virus Response Policy and Procedures**

It is the responsibility of John Carroll University (JCU) faculty, staff and students to protect themselves and the JCU community from respiratory viruses, including **COVID-19, RSV** and **Influenza**. CDC ([2024](#)) advises common sense solutions to protect self and others from serious illnesses that include staying up to day with vaccinations, seeking treatment when needed, and staying home when sick.

### **I. THE PURPOSES OF THIS POLICY IS TO:**

1. Safeguard the health and welfare of students, faculty, and staff as it relates to respiratory illness.
2. Manage the operations of JCU in an effective and efficient manner.
3. Inform and advise the JCU community based on the respiratory risk to the community.
4. Establish operating procedures appropriate to all constituents of JCU.

### **II. OBJECTIVES:**

1. The objectives of the Respiratory Virus Policy are to:
  - a. Define respiratory virus diseases.
  - b. Identify any reporting requirements.
  - c. Identify health care and testing responses and recommendations for students exhibiting respiratory symptoms.
  - d. Identify individuals and groups with responsibilities should a respiratory virus outbreak occur.
  - e. Provide information about methods of self-protection for members of the campus community.

### **III. POLICY AND PROCEDURES:**

1. Procedures for Students who are symptomatic with respiratory virus:
  - a. If a student has respiratory symptoms, they should wear a mask and distance themselves from others, until testing is complete. Symptoms include fever, chills, cough, runny/stuffy nose, sore throat, muscle/body aches, headaches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and/or loss of taste/smell.
  - b. If positive for respiratory virus, the student is advised to stay home and away from others until the student is fever-free without meds for 24 hours and symptoms are improving. It is recommended that for the next 5 days, the student should take added precautions by wearing a mask.
2. Procedure for treating a residential student who tests positive for a respiratory virus:



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- a. If a residential student tests positive for a respiratory virus by the Student Health Center staff, other medical agency/physician, or a home test, with results being sent to the Student Health Center, the student should self-isolate and call the health center.
  - b. The student may go home to isolate, or isolate in their residence hall room until the student is fever-free without meds for 24 hours and symptoms are getting better.
  - c. The student should wear a medical grade mask when around others.
  - d. The student may go to the dining hall for a takeout meal and use communal restrooms, wearing a medical grade mask.
  - e. The student may return to class if they have had no fever for 24 hours (that is one full day of no fever without using fever-reducing medication) and symptoms are improving. The student should continue to wear a medical grade mask for the next 5 full days.
3. Procedures for treating off campus/commuter student who tests positive for a respiratory virus:
4. If an off campus/commuter student tests positive for a respiratory illness by the Student Health Center staff, or other medical agency/physician or a home test, the student will notify the Student Health Center and isolate off campus.
    - a. The student should isolate until they are fever-free without meds for 24 hours and symptoms are getting better.
    - b. The student should wear a medical grade mask when around others and on campus.
    - c. The student may return to class if they have had no fever for 24 hours (that is one full day of no fever without using fever-reducing medication) and symptoms are improving. The student should continue to wear a medical grade mask for the next 5 full days.
  5. If there is an on-campus outbreak in a residence hall, the Director of the Student Health Center will notify the Infectious Disease Task Force to determine next steps.

## References

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). March 1, 2024.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/p0301-respiratory-virus.html>



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Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). March 1, 2024. Respiratory Virus Guidance, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/guidance/respiratory-virus-guidance.html>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). March 1, 2024. Respiratory Virus Guidance Update FAQ. <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/guidance/faq.html>