



**POLICIES**

**Effective Date: May 14, 2020**  
**Date of Next Review: May 14, 2021**

**Policy Owner: Department of Compliance and Risk Management**

**Contact: 615.327.6102**

**Applicability: All Meharry Medical College Students**  
**Approved by: Office of the President**

**Subject: COVID-19 Student Return Policy**

**PURPOSE:**

This policy is intended to provide guidance for a return to classes and clinics for all students of Meharry Medical College (“College”). The College has addressed a return to school process for faculty and staff in a separate policy.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

As the College continues to fulfill its mission of excellent education and training in the health sciences and conduct research that fosters the elimination of health disparities, it is paramount that we transition students safely and efficiently back into the classroom settings. The College will follow the recommended Center for Diseases (CDC) guidelines to ensure a healthy learning environment.

The College’s COVID-19 testing policy requires that all students be screened and tested for COVID-19 exposure before returning to campus regardless of whether they have self-isolated locally or have traveled outside of the Nashville, Tennessee vicinity.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Novel Coronavirus:** A novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified. The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is not the same as the [coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans](#) and cause mild illness, like the common cold.

**PROCEDURE:**

The ability to attend classes and rotate through clinical settings will be prohibited until students are tested by College representatives and documentation is received by the Meharry Student and Employee Health Clinic. Students will be required to self-isolate in Nashville for 14-days prior to their assigned testing date.

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Each School will establish a return to campus check-in date that will be provided to students a week prior to their mandated return to Nashville. The check-in date will start the beginning of the proposed self-isolation clock.

### **COVID-19 Screening and Testing Procedures**

- Assessment and testing forms will be completed for each student.
- Testing type – Nasal swab to determine if affected by the virus causing COVID-19.
- Testing and Results – Testing and dissemination of results will be coordinated by Student & Employee & Student Health.

#### **Students who test Negative**

- Students who test negative will receive clearance to return to classes.

#### **Students who test Positive**

- Students who test positive with no symptoms or underlying medical conditions will be instructed to self-isolate for 14 days and retest after 14-day self-isolation.
- Students who test positive and who have symptoms of the virus will be referred to Employee & Student Health Services or their PCP for care.
- Tracking of student data will be managed by Student & Employee Health.

#### **Ongoing Monitoring**

- Upon arrival to campus, students will be required to answer daily assessment questions along with having their temperature taken.
  - If a student believes they are experiencing any form of illness, including an elevation in temperature, they must immediately call the Student & Employee Health Clinic.
- Students with positive responses are required to call Student & Employee Health Clinic.
- Appropriate personal protection equipment (“PPE”) (i.e. masks and/or gloves) shall be worn at all times while on campus until further notice.

#### **Symptom Trajectory:**

The average onset of symptoms for COVID-19 is 5-14 days after exposure.

- Person tested at day 3 may not have sufficient amount of virus in their system to be detected resulting in ‘False Negative’ results.
- False Negative results – 30% overall



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**Wellness Check-Ins:**

All Schools are strongly encouraged to launch individual 1:1 student check-ins with their respective student body individually via phone or video on a weekly basis. Schools can utilize their academic masters (SOM) team leaders (SOD) or faculty advisors (SOGSR) system to conduct these weekly wellness checks.

If a student is experiencing mental health concerns (i.e. anxiety, depressions) they should be referred to the Counseling Service department for follow-up, or encouraged to contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which is available 24/7 at 1-800-275-TALK or the Crisis Text Line, also available 24/7 by texting TALK to 741-741.

**EXHIBITS:**