



TMC

Thomas More College
An Inspired Education

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THOMAS MORE COLLEGE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

COVID-19 EXPOSURE POLICY

Stakeholders:

All those at TMC or involved with TMC, from the Board of Trustees, EXCO, the teaching staff, employees, support staff, pupils, parents and visitors.

Thomas More College:

Thomas More College provides a nurturing and caring environment for all its stakeholders and strives in a non-discriminatory manner to ensure the safety and well-being of all those involved with the School,

Aims and Objectives

To provide parents, pupils and staff with accurate information regarding the procedure/s to follow in the event of possible exposure and actual exposure to Covid-19 persons.

To try to safeguard all at TMC and not expose anyone to risk.

Principles of Policy:

Scope:

- Scenario 1 – Symptomatic individual who has tested positive for Covid-19;
- Scenario 2 – Asymptomatic individual who has tested positive for Covid-19;
- Scenario 3 – Symptomatic individual who has not been tested;
- Scenario 4 – Symptomatic individual who has tested negative for Covid-19;
- Scenario 5 – Asymptomatic individual who has been in contact with an individual who has tested positive for Covid-19.

Each case will be managed according to the specific scenario and the phase of Thomas More College owing to operational differences in the respective phases.

Definitions:

Symptomatic refers to an individual who is exhibiting any of the following Covid-19 symptoms:

- High fever
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Body aches
- Loss of taste or smell

Asymptomatic refers to an individual who is not exhibiting any discernible symptoms.

Testing refers to undergoing a PCR test to determine the presence of Covid-19 in the individual – please note that the results of a Rapid antigen test will not be considered for the purposes of this protocol.

Contact refers to direct, indirect or secondary contact.

Procedure:

SCENARIO 1:

Symptomatic individual who has tested positive for Covid-19

In this scenario a symptomatic pupil, staff member or visitor wishing to attend campus has had a Covid-19 test and has tested positive for Covid-19.

The pupil or staff member will only be allowed to return to campus after a 7-day self-isolation period since the day of the positive test result and provided that they do not have any persistent symptoms which could indicate the potential for disease transmission still exists.

In this scenario any siblings or household members must follow the guidance found in Scenario 5 below.

PLEASE NOTE:

- *The 7-day isolation period must be completed even if a further negative Covid-19 test result for the individual is received or symptoms cease prior to the 7th day.*
- *You are reminded that social distancing, mask-wearing and sanitisation should be adhered to within the household during this period to prevent transmission to other household members.*
- *It is understood that certain Covid-19 related symptoms such as headaches and loss of taste or smell may continue for months after a Covid-19 infection. For the purposes of this protocol persistent symptoms should be considered as those that have the potential to transmit Covid-19 to others (ie cough, vomiting or diarrhoea).*

SCENARIO 2:

Asymptomatic individual who has tested positive for Covid-19.

In this instance an asymptomatic pupil, staff member or visitor has had a Covid-19 test and has tested positive for Covid-19.

As the individual is asymptomatic they may return to campus **UNLESS** the individual develops any symptoms of Covid-19.

In the event of the above they will only be allowed to return to campus after a 7-day self-isolation period since the day of the positive test result and provided that they do not have any persistent symptoms which could indicate the potential for disease transmission still exists.

In this scenario any siblings or household members must also follow the guidance found in Scenario 5 below.

PLEASE NOTE:

- *In the case where the individual develops symptoms, the 7-day isolation period must be completed even if a further negative Covid-19 test result for the individual is received or symptoms cease prior to the 7th day.*
- *You are reminded that social distancing, mask-wearing and sanitisation should be adhered to within the household during this period to prevent transmission to other household members.*

- *It is understood that certain Covid-19 related symptoms such as headaches and loss of taste or smell may continue for months after a Covid-19 infection. For the purposes of this protocol persistent symptoms should be considered as those that have the potential to transmit Covid-19 to others (ie cough, vomiting or diarrhoea).*

SCENARIO 3:

Symptomatic individual who has not been tested.

In this scenario the pupil, staff member or visitor is exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 but has not been tested for Covid-19.

The individual or staff member will only be allowed to return to campus under the following conditions:

- Upon presentation of a negative Covid-19 test result;
- With a doctor's certificate clearing the individual for return to work or school;
- Once persistent symptoms cease.

In this scenario any siblings or household members must follow the guidance found in Scenario 5 below.

PLEASE NOTE:

- *Only the results of a PCR test will be accepted in this scenario. The results of a Rapid antigen test will not be considered for the purposes of this protocol.*
- *You are reminded that social distancing, mask-wearing and sanitisation should be adhered to within the household during this period to prevent potential transmission to other household members.*
- *It is understood that certain Covid-19 related symptoms such as headaches and loss of taste or smell may continue for months after a Covid-19 infection. For the purposes of this protocol persistent symptoms should be considered as those that have the potential to transmit Covid-19 to others (ie cough, vomiting or diarrhoea).*

SCENARIO 4:

Symptomatic individual who has tested negative for Covid-19.

In this scenario the individual may return to campus under upon presentation of the negative Covid-19 test result.

In this scenario any siblings or household members must follow the guidance found in Scenario 5.

PLEASE NOTE:

- *Only the results of a PCR test will be accepted in this scenario. The results of a Rapid antigen test will not be considered for the purposes of this protocol.*
- *You are requested to be considerate of others when making the decision to return to campus in this scenario. A symptomatic Covid negative individual may still be suffering from another contagious disease which could be transmitted to others. It is therefore requested that a medical opinion on the return to campus of the individual is sought.*

SCENARIO 5:

Asymptomatic individual who has been in contact with an individual who has tested positive for Covid-19.

In this instance the individual may continue to be present on campus.

In this scenario any siblings or household members must follow the guidance found in this Scenario.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **The individual should be closely monitored for the development of symptoms. Should symptoms develop please refer to Scenario 3 or Scenario 4 as appropriate.**

Responsibilities:

This policy is the responsibility of all at TMC to ensure that no-one compromises anyone else, or puts anyone at risk by not following the correct procedures in one's own self- interests.

Commitment:

TMC believes in belonging and inclusion but not at the risk of someone's else's health, safety and rights.

*POLICY CREATED BY: Transmission Control Committee
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DATE MODIFIED: 01/02/2022
DATE TO BE MODIFIED: ongoing during pandemic
BY WHOM: Transmission Control Committee & EXCO*