



---

## AVTEC COVID-19 FAQ's v10.15.20

The questions and answers contained in this document are general responses to what we believe are the most common questions on the COVID Pandemic and its implications to students and staff. Please send any questions you want addressed through your counselor. We will update the FAQ's as needed.

### What is Lay Low/Quarantine/Isolation?

- **Lay Low** status means having been exposed to someone who is a **close contact** of a positive case who exhibits symptoms, or is someone who had minor symptoms and is waiting for a test result to be returned. This person will need to Lay Low until a negative test result is received (either their test or the test of a close contact in their program) – usually 2-4 days.
- **Quarantine** status means the individual is a close contact of a positive case and has been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. This person will need to remain in quarantine from 14 days after their last contact with the positive case.
- **Isolation** status means having tested positive for the COVID virus. This person will need to remain in isolation for a minimum of 10 days, with the last 48 hours of the isolation period being without any symptoms and without taking any medications to mask their symptoms.

### **What happens when someone tests positive in my class?**

The positive case will be required to **isolate** for a minimum of 10 days. AVTEC has acted out of caution in its efforts to see training completed successfully without COVID incursions and our initial policy upon a positive case is for everyone to be considered a close contact and quarantine until Public Health determines otherwise.

**Close contacts** of the positive case, **defined as anyone who spent more than 15 minutes over the course of 3 days within 6 feet** of an individual who tested positive, will be required to **quarantine** for 14 days. Generally, symptoms will develop within this period if transmission of the virus occurred.

### **Can I be in a class where a positive occurs and not be deemed a close contact?**

Yes! Public Health will interview you when you are contacted. Based on your responses to the interview a determination will be made.

### **Will my program shift to online class during the quarantine period?**

Your instructor or department head will be in contact with you with the details for how this will impact training. For any questions about hardware, software, connectivity, or materials access while doing class online, please contact your instructor.

### **Where can I quarantine?**

**On campus students** can **quarantine** in their Residence Hall room and we recommend you do so as we can provide for you the technology you need to access for training, and food services. If you would prefer to return to your hometown (or elsewhere) for **quarantine**, please coordinate with Residence Life staff to minimize your time around other students while you are in the process of leaving the building.

**Off campus students** should **quarantine** in off campus housing. If there is a concern about sharing space or infecting others (housemates, family members) you may ask to quarantine in available AVTEC housing. Please ask a Counselor or Residence Life staff member if you have housing concerns while you are in quarantine to see if there is available space.

### **What if someone develops symptoms while in quarantine?**

When those in **quarantine** develop any symptoms of COVID, they will also be required to take a COVID test, continuing quarantine. If the test is positive, they will be required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days after their symptoms started or their test was taken. If they test negative they will be required to finish the original 14 day quarantine before returning to the class.

### **What happens if we only have a close contact in our class?**

The individual(s) with **close contact** to a known positive case will be required to **quarantine** for 14 days and the rest of the class would continue as usual, with a heightened sense of awareness. Should that person develop any symptoms of COVID, a COVID test will be required and the class will be placed into **Lay Low** status while the person who was a **close contact** with symptoms and a negative test would still be required to finish out the 14 day **quarantine**.

If the **close contact** tests negative, the **Lay Low** status would be cancelled and the rest of the class would continue as usual. If the **close contact** tests positive, then the rest of your class would now be considered a **close contact** of a known positive case and would be required to **quarantine** for 14 days.

### **Can I test my way out of close contact Quarantine?**

Unfortunately, no. As a close contact, you have been exposed to the virus. Even though you may have no symptoms you may still be infected and able to spread the disease to others. The nature of the virus and the period in which symptoms can occur means you may test negative initially and develop symptoms later. The only proven way to prevent further spread COVID, and the policy at AVTEC, is to require a 14 day quarantine for any close contacts of someone who has tested positive.

### **What resources are available to me during the quarantine?**

All students should contact their instructor for class issues. For living needs, healthcare, mental health, or other issues, students should contact an AVTEC counselor:

Patti Price: 907-224-6170

Lara Loomis: 907-224-6171

Counselors are available Monday-Friday, 8AM-7PM. If you have an immediate need requiring assistance, you can contact the Residence Life staff: 907-224-6100. Additionally, the following community resources are available to you:

- Seward Community Health Center 907-224-2273
- Providence Emergency Center 907-224-5205
- Glacier Family Medical Center 907-224-8733
- NorthStar Health Clinic (for Alaskan Native students) 907-224-3490
- Seaview Community Services Crisis Line: 907-224-3027
- Seward Prevention Coalition: [www.sewardpreventioncoalition.org](http://www.sewardpreventioncoalition.org) (click 'neighbors helping neighbors' button for community support)

In any emergency please call **911**. This would include if you have trouble breathing, a persistent pain in your chest, a change in your level of consciousness (being confused) or your lips are turning blue). For all other needs, please contact your healthcare provider by phone before leaving quarantine.

### **How will I eat during quarantine?**

Meals will be delivered to your Residence Hall room or AVTEC Apartment. Residence Life staff will contact you to coordinate meal drop off and trash removal.

Off campus students, if you require assistance in obtaining groceries while in quarantine, please contact the Residence Life Office or Counseling Staff.

### **When can I return to class?**

Close contacts can return to class after their 14 day quarantine. Unfortunately there is nothing that you can do to end quarantine early.

### **Will ALL students be required to test again?**

At this point there are no plans to do any further mass-testing of students. Depending on the level of community spread and the presence of multiple positive cases or close contacts on the AVTEC campus there may be a requirement for all students to take a COVID test.

### **What type of test is required?**

Based on current direction from the State of Alaska, the only test considered valid by the Division of Public Health for a negative result is the PCR test. This is the free test that will be conducted by the Seward Community Health Center for students who are considered '**close contacts**' of someone who is positive.

### **If we are required to test, must I sign a release of information (ROI) to have the results provided to AVTEC?**

The specific response is no, you don't have to sign the release. You may provide your written test result to us after you receive it from the provider, negating the need for the ROI but slowing down AVTEC's response. If you test positive we need to know quickly in order to protect our population in this congregate setting.

We value our privacy as much as you do yours. At AVTEC, we have adopted extra-ordinary processes in the interests of limiting the impacts of positive COVID cases to the student body and training. The ROI will be narrowly construed to be valid only for the required test and those results will only be reviewed in the Student Services Department, where our counselors are employed.

### **What if I refuse?**

Should you refuse to sign a release that permits the provider from notifying us, you will be required to provide a written copy of your results from the provider and you will be required to quarantine from the date of the first test result until the provider lets us know we have had no positive test results. If everyone tests negative, you will then be released from quarantine.

However, if the provider informs us people have tested positive and none of those who signed ROI's are positive, those who don't provide an ROI or a document from the provider with the results of their test must remain in quarantine until the positive students are identified or the 14 day quarantine passes, whichever comes first. It may also require the entire class of the students who refuse to sign the ROI to quarantine as 'possible' close contacts of a positive. This is truly unworkable and impacts students who otherwise would be training face to face. **Please sign the ROI.**

### **Why wasn't I contacted with the result of my test on September 15<sup>th</sup>?**

Our two tests at AVTEC were handled differently by the provider, which was confusing. Everyone was individually contacted by the provider with results of the 9/8 test and no one was individually contacted with the results of the 9/15 test.

AVTEC was called as results came in letting us know the number of tests remaining to be processed while as we were in a lay low status. It wasn't until Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> that all test results were completed.