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Five Things You Should Know This Week

University Communications and Marketing

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Dec. 14, 2020

As we continue with the fall semester in accordance with our Return to Campus plan, here are **Five Things You Should Know This Week**:

1. Georgia Southern has updated its quarantine guidance

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Public Health (DPH) have updated their quarantine guidance to provide new options for quarantine duration. After careful consultation with DPH, Georgia Southern has implemented the CDC option to reduce the duration of quarantine for persons identified as close contacts of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 from 14 days to 10 days.

This means that if you have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive case, you will be required to self-quarantine for 10 days after the day the contact occurred. This change will become effective today (Monday, Dec. 14) and will also apply to any student, faculty or staff member already under self-quarantine. If you are currently self-quarantining because you are a close contact, the CARES Center will adjust your quarantine end date accordingly and will notify you (and your faculty and/or supervisors) of your new quarantine end date. We also will update our FAQs and flowsheets accordingly over the coming days to reflect the change to a 10-day quarantine period.

After completing the 10-day quarantine period, you should continue to monitor your health and follow mitigation strategies until 14 days after your most recent exposure. If symptoms develop, you should isolate immediately. Mitigation strategies that should be practiced include, but are not limited to, correct and consistent mask use, social distancing, hand and cough hygiene, environmental cleaning and disinfection, and avoiding large crowds.

It is important to note that this new **quarantine** guidance ONLY applies to **asymptomatic close contacts**.

The **isolation** guidance for **persons with symptoms and/or a positive COVID test result** remains unchanged. Persons with symptoms and/or a positive COVID test result should self-isolate until their symptoms have improved, AND they have gone 24 hours without a fever, AND 10 days have passed since their symptoms started (or since their positive test was taken if they are asymptomatic).

These new guidelines for Georgia Southern have been developed after consultation with DPH and careful consideration of our resources, testing capabilities and our continued efforts to keep our campuses safe. Please contact the CARES Center with any questions.

2. CDC offers guidance to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during the holiday season

The CDC reports that [travel](#) and [gatherings](#) with family and friends who do not live with you can increase your chances of getting or spreading [COVID-19](#) or the [flu](#). Whether or not you choose to travel, the CDC provides a number of recommendations on how to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during the holiday season. The more steps you take, the more you are protected against COVID-19. To find out more from the CDC on staying safe during the winter holidays, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/winter.html>.

3. CARES Center will be available during the break

The [CARES Center \(for COVID-19 self-reporting\)](#), which *will* be staffed during the holiday break, continues to be an important University resource that not only provides University officials real-time indication about COVID-19's impact on our campuses, but also initiates a support system for the student's benefit to assure their well-being and academic success.

The CARES Center's ability to mitigate the spread of the virus on our campuses relies on the University community's willingness to be honest and forthcoming with information. In order to monitor public health, it is important that students and employees are encouraged to contact the CARES Center to report if they:

- Have tested positive for COVID-19, or
- Are experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms, or
- Were notified they are a close contact with a COVID-19 positive case.

There are several ways to reach the CARES Center:

- Use the MyGS mobile app
- Complete the CARES Center COVID-19 self-reporting form available through the MyGeorgiaSouthern portal under the tile titled "COVID-19 Information & Resources."
- Call 912-478-CARE (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- Email covidsupport@georgiasouthern.edu

4. Keep up with Eagle athletics

Georgia Southern Eagles men's and women's basketball teams have several games scheduled before the holiday break. The slate of games includes two at home tomorrow (12/15). Find out more details at <https://gseagles.com/calendar>.

Bowl games will be announced this week, so look out for the final opportunity to cheer on your Eagles for the 2020 football season!

5. Fall 2020 commencement ceremonies continue this week

Following all health and safety protocols, Georgia Southern looks forward to hosting four face-to-face commencement ceremonies on Wednesday and Thursday at Paulson Stadium. CDC and GDPH guidelines will be strictly adhered to, and all participants are expected to wear a face covering. Additionally, all staff working the ceremonies will be screened as they enter the facility. Find out more at www.GeorgiaSouthern.edu/commencement.