

# How does contact tracing work for students?

## What happens behind the scenes?

The [Auburn University Medical Clinic](#) conducts contact tracing after learning about a student who has tested positive for COVID-19. It is critical that students complete the required [COVID-19 Self-Report Form](#) to ensure the Clinic is informed of all cases—even if the COVID-19 test was not conducted at the Clinic.

The Clinic will work closely with the [Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work](#) to contact students who have tested positive for COVID-19. The purpose of these conversations is to learn who the student has come into close contact (defined as 15 minutes or more, less than 6 feet apart).

The student will receive a phone call from a trained contact tracer. As part of that conversation, they will discuss:

- +** **Housing.** It's important to talk through where the student lives to learn if their location makes it more likely that others have been exposed. The student will be asked if they live in a shared space such as a residence hall or fraternity house, how many people live in their house or apartment or if there have been other houseguests at their residence.
- +** **Classes.** Students will be asked what classes or academic activities they have attended in-person. The discussion will be about where the class was held, how many people attended and what activities were completed in class.
- +** **Activities.** Many students have an active life outside of academics, so there will be a discussion about what student life events were attended and where they were held.
- +** **Employment.** It's common for students to work while they are in college, so contract tracers will ask the student about those with whom they may have come into close contact at work.

Contact tracers will encourage students to notify their close contacts that they have tested positive for COVID-19. Some students may prefer for the contact tracing team to anonymously notify their contacts that they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Both options are available to the student, and it is the student's choice.

