Purpose: The following COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Guidance are to be followed by Salk personnel in the event a Salk employee, student at Salk, or another person present on Salk’s campus is positively diagnosed with COVID-19 or experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms and therefore presumed to be infected. This guidance will help ensure that individuals who may have come in close contact with a sick person are notified of potential risks of exposure and provided quarantine guidance.

When Salk personnel report a positive COVID-19 diagnosis or presumed infection:

1. All Salk personnel are required to inform their supervisors of a COVID-19 diagnosis or presumed infection and stay home as required by the Salk Protective Measures. Personnel with symptoms of COVID-19 will be presumed to be infected since testing is currently limited, and a person with no-risk factors and mild symptoms may be advised by their physician to stay at home and not get tested.
2. The Communications Department will send out a notification e-mail to the Salk Community without disclosing the name of the person who has received a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 or is experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms.
3. The Environmental Health & Safety Department (EH&S), in consultation with Human Resources (HR), will initiate an investigation to identify:
   a. Individuals who may have come in contact with the sick person beginning 48 hours before the onset of symptoms.
   b. Areas within the Salk Institute that the sick person visited during this time (e.g., offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared equipment, laboratory areas).
   c. Other individuals who may have entered these areas during this time.
4. EH&S will notify individuals identified in step 3 (above) of their potential exposure to SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19 causative agent). Close contacts of the sick person will be directed to begin a mandatory, 14-day self-quarantine in which they stay home, maintain social distancing and self-monitor for symptoms until 14 days from the last date of exposure. The CDC defines a close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of a sick person for at least 30 minutes, starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the sick person is isolated.
   a. If a potentially exposed individual has been identified as an essential worker on campus but was not in close contact with the sick person, they may be allowed, on a case-by-case basis, to continue working so long as they do not have any symptoms of illness and strictly adhere to all mandatory and recommended protocols to protect the Salk community. Potentially exposed individuals may be reassigned as appropriate to a different work location while the investigation and decontamination measures are executed.
5. Security will deactivate the card key access of sick personnel and individuals entering quarantine while they are not accessing the Institute.
6. The Security Department will post and secure the areas identified in 3 (above) to prevent unauthorized entry.
7. EH&S will identify and implement a decontamination plan for the areas identified. Decontamination procedures should not be performed until after 24 hours from the last use/access by the sick person.
   a. Decontamination procedures involve the use of a Sanosil Fogger (H2O2 with Ag ions) or a physical wipe down with an approved disinfectant against SARS-CoV-2. Decontamination is not necessary if more than 7 days have passed since the sick individual visited/used the facility.
   b. Custodial Services will perform a deep clean of surrounding areas identified as part of the decontamination plan.
   c. EH&S will release areas after decontamination procedures are complete.

Discontinuing Home Isolation per CDC Guidelines

For Persons with COVID-19 Under Isolation: The decision to discontinue home isolation for persons with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 should be made in the context of local circumstances. Options include a symptom-based (i.e., time-since-illness-onset and time-since-recovery strategy) or a test-based strategy. Of note, there have been reports of prolonged detection of RNA without direct correlation to viral culture.
1. **Symptom-based strategy**: you may return to work after at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, defined as:
   a. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
   b. Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
   c. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

2. **Test-based strategy**: Persons who have COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:
   a. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
   b. Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
   c. Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).

**For Persons Who have NOT had COVID-19 Symptoms but Tested Positive and are Under Isolation:**

1. **Time-based strategy**: Persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:
   a. At least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. If they develop symptoms, then the symptom-based or test-based strategy should be used. Note: because symptoms cannot be used to gauge where these individuals are in the course of their illness, it is possible that the duration of viral shedding could be longer or shorter than 10 days after their first positive test.

2. **Test-based strategy**: Persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:
   a. Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).