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**Jimmy H. Baker**  
CHANCELLOR

**MEMORANDUM #2020-EXE-048**

DATE: May 27, 2020

TO: Presidents, Alabama Community College System  
Alabama Community College System Office

FROM: Jimmy H. Baker, Chancellor 

RE: Revised Return to Work/Classes following positive COVID results

The last few months have truly proven the resiliency and adaptiveness of our colleges as we have navigated through maintaining operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. As we look forward to the start of our summer semester and returning to the workplace/campuses, I want you to continue to be vigilant in your efforts to maintain modified social distancing and hygiene practices for the continued protection of students, faculty, and staff.

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance regarding the return to work/campus if students and/or faculty and staff self-report positive COVID-19 test results. This guidance is provided from the most recent updates from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and/or Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). This guidance should be used in addition to your college's specific plan for modified campus activities/workplans.

**Persons arriving to campus/work WITH signs/symptoms of COVID-19**

Should a faculty/staff or student arrive to campus/work exhibiting signs/symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, and shortness of breath), institutions should ask the person to leave campus and consult a healthcare provider before returning to campus/work. Further, if the person is an employee then the institution should continue to utilize *MEMO-EXE-029 (Paid Leave, Instructors who cannot work remotely, and FFCRA)* regarding the use of sick leave.

The need for work excuses or negative COVID-19 results from healthcare providers should follow your institutions human resources policy.

**Persons WITH Positive COVID-19 test results returning to campus/work:**

Institutions should assign a designated contact person on campus for faculty/staff and students if they have had a positive COVID-19 test during the time period between April 1, 2020 to present date for further guidance on returning to campus/work.

The following CDC guidance should be utilized when providing guidance to students, faculty/staff returning to work and/or campus.

**1. Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms** and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**,
- At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.

**2. 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:

- 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 strategy listed above should be used.

Any college with a student or faculty/staff member who reports a laboratory-confirmed positive test for COVID-19 should also notify Rachel Adams, Communications and Marketing Administrator, Alabama Community College System, (o) 334-293-4651, (c) 334-328-6191, [Rachel.Adams@accs.edu](mailto:Rachel.Adams@accs.edu).

Thank you for the work that you do to support and protect our colleges and well-being of our students and state. I am continually grateful for the efforts our colleges have made adapting to these highly unusual operating conditions.

cc: President's assistants, Alabama Community College System  
System Office Staff