**Student COVID-19 Illness Return to Campus Protocol**

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) has developed and established safety plans to assist its colleges in maintaining safe working and learning environments throughout the state. These plans have resulted in protocols and procedures that are intended to align with federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines as well as state Executive Orders and health department procedures. While a state of emergency exists, declaring a global pandemic of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), KCTCS exercises its authority to implement additional precautions for student, employee, and community safety.

**STUDENTS and COVID-19:**

**How to Reduce Exposure:**

* Follow KCTCS guidelines provided by your college
* These guidelines include:
  + Taking federal and state recommended precautions
  + Knowing the symptoms of COVID-19
* Stay away from Campus when you are experiencing any of the following:
  + Fever of 100.4F or higher
  + Chills or Sweating regardless of actual temperature rating
  + New Cough
  + Difficulty Breathing
  + Sore Throat
  + Muscle aches, body aches
  + Stomach upset or vomiting and diarrhea
  + Loss of taste or smell
  + Awaiting test results surrounding these or other symptoms
  + Told to stay in self-isolation

**What to do if you must stay away from Campus:**

* Contact your instructor(s) immediately to report you are ill or feel ill
* Protect yourself and others by isolating from people
* Contact a health department official or other healthcare provider
* Obtain a test for COVID-19 if possible
* Do not return to campus until you have passed one or all the following steps:
  + It has been 10 days since symptoms first appeared and 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and COVID –19 symptoms have improved (for example, cough, shortness of breath).

NOTE: People who are severely ill and/or hospitalized with COVID-19 or have a severely weakened immune system should stay home longer than 10 days and up to 20 days after symptoms first appeared. They should talk to their healthcare provider for more guidance.

**What to do to Return to Campus and Class:**

To safeguard KCTCS college communities, your instructor(s) or a designated college administrator will require documentation or certification that you are able to return safely to campus.

Appropriate Documentation or Certification may include:

* Complete the Self-Certification Form (see attached form) and return to the designated college official.
  + Certify that you are no longer experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19; or
  + Certify that it has been 10 days since symptoms first appeared and 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and COVID –19 symptoms have improved (for example, cough, shortness of breath).
* Submit to the instructor(s) or designated college administrator a doctor’s certification verifying that you have sought medical attention and are not experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19; or
* Submit to the instructor(s) or designated college administrator document(s) the local health department provided you that you tested positive and were given an end date for your self-isolation period

**Class Requirements:**

Students who have self-isolated to ensure the safety of other individuals, and students who have self-isolated while experiencing mild symptoms should be able to continue assignments virtually while not present in class. If students are too ill to continue classwork or must be present to complete quizzes or exams, the instructor will work with the student to determine the timeframe for and manner of making up these assignments. Instructors are not obligated to provide an opportunity for completing assignments unless students provide one or more of the “Self-Certification Form for Safely Returning to Class/Campus” documents as described above. Faculty will work with administration to ensure a safe, productive, and appropriate return to campus. Students must also work with faculty and administration during these extraordinary times as required by the KCTCS Code of Student Conduct, Article III, Section 3, Standard 2.4, and the Appendix, entitled Crisis or Emergency Plans, Protocols, and Guidance.

**Self-Certification Form for Safely Returning to Class/Campus**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, certify that I have previously notified my instructor(s)

(PRINT STUDENT NAME)

that I would miss class(es) due to symptoms that have been related to the Coronavirus.

By signing and dating this form, I certify the following statement or statements are true (check all that apply):

* Certify that I am no longer experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19;
* Certify that it has been 10 days since symptoms first appeared and 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and COVID –19 symptoms have improved (for example, cough, shortness of breath).

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Falsely signing the *Self-Certification Form for Safely Returning to Class/Campus* will result in disciplinary actions as outlined in the *KCTCS Code of Student Conduct*.