Conversation with Dr. Shelley Fiscus – Update from questions posed during Thursday, August 27th discussion:

There was a question about a change in CDC guidance concerning quarantined individuals today. What was communicated within one of the universities was incorrect—CDC has NOT changed guidance around quarantining close contacts of infected individuals.

CDC DID alter it’s guidance around testing of close contacts. Formerly, it was recommended that close contacts be tested, regardless of symptoms. CDC has softened that language to say it’s not necessary to test asymptomatic close contacts unless the individual has health concerns or it is recommended by their physician.


What DID NOT change was the recommendation to test close contacts of cases on university campuses:

Testing asymptomatic individuals with recent known or suspected exposure to a person with COVID-19

Testing is recommended for all close contacts of persons diagnosed with COVID-19:

• Because of the potential for asymptomatic and/or pre-symptomatic transmission, it is important that contacts of individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 be quickly identified and tested. Feasibility of identifying and testing close contacts will likely vary by IHE and their local context.

• Additionally, in accordance with state and local laws and regulations, IHEs should work with local health officials to inform those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to wear masks if they are able, quarantine in their living quarters or a designated housing location, and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days.