1. Foreword


For those who have had close contact with people who have tested positive, even if asymptomatic, mandatory quarantine may also be required. In general, persons (students, staff, and teachers) who have been vaccinated with a valid COVID-19 certificate and persons fully recovered with a valid COVID-19 certificate (issued to persons who have had a coronavirus infection attested to by a positive PCR test within the past 6 months), if asymptomatic, are exempt from having any tests performed and are exempt from quarantine.

Mandatory quarantine is decided by the competent cantonal authority (Cantonal Medical Office, CMO) through its contact tracing service. SUPSI may adopt additional protective measures.

For employees and students who are required to quarantine on the basis of medical instructions or by decision of the CMO, absences will be treated in accordance with the provisions of the SUPSI Protection Plan (see 4.1 and 5.1.2).

This Protocol governs the procedure to be followed in the event of a report of contagion or a direct contact with a COVID-19 positive-tested person.

The objective of the Protocol is to ensure proper case management with due and timely communication.

The cases and situations related to possible infections are many: this Protocol contains a series of important indications that may not be completely exhaustive and applicable to all cases. The SUPSI General Director and the relevant SUPSI Direction members will evaluate and decide on the individual cases.

2. Definitions

“Close contact” - apart from those living under the same roof - is defined as contact within 1.5 metres for more than 15 minutes without protection (e.g., without Plexiglas separation, without a face mask) in the presence of symptoms or during the 48 hours before the onset of symptoms. Specific instructions on isolation and quarantine can be found at www4.ti.ch/dss/dsp/covid19/population/isolation-and-quarantine-instructions/.

“Quarantine” means the mandatory period of isolation of 10 days since the last contact with a person who has been tested positive (which can be reduced to seven days provided that the person concerned results negative to a rapid antigen test or a biomolecular analysis, or by means of PCR, in accordance with the COVID-19 Ordinance Special Situation, link: https://www.admin.ch/opc/it/classified-compilation/20201774/index.html) and cantonal provisions on isolation and quarantine https://www4.ti.ch/dss/dsp/covid19/popolazione/isolamento-e-quarantena-istruzioni/ (Italian version).
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Exceptions to the quarantine requirement valid for contact quarantine (effective June 26, 2021), are provided for persons who have already been infected with COVID-19 and have recovered or are fully vaccinated (further details on Exceptions to the quarantine requirement: link).

The person placed in quarantine must avoid contact with other people. They must monitor their state of health, isolate themselves, take the test and contact their doctor or the Ticino infoline on 0800 144 144.

At the time of quarantine, those concerned will receive detailed instructions from the CMO on what to do.

By “isolation” we mean the mandatory period of isolation to which a COVID-19 positive person is subjected. Isolation ends 48 hours after the symptoms disappear, provided that at least 10 days have passed since their appearance.

3. In the event of positive cases of COVID-19 within SUPSI?

The Cantonal Medical Office, using the contact tracing service, traces and informs all close contacts for each positive person and implements the necessary measures.

All persons deemed to be in “close contact” are, as a rule contacted by the CMO contact tracing service; the CMO may contact SUPSI’s Human Resources directly for further information such as:

- names and telephone numbers of students, teachers and staff,
- classes
- activities carried out by the persons concerned,
- Protection Plan and related departmental Activity Sheets,
- etc.

SUPSI has provided the CMO with the contact numbers of the members of Human Resources. Human Resources manages relations with the CMO in the event of a detected contagious situation.

Human Resources will inform you promptly:

- the SUPSI General Director, who takes responsibility for the flow of information within the Services and with regard to the mandate Directors
- the Department Director,
- the direct superior of the employee tested positive,
- the Head of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies, likewise Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning and the Department Director in which the positive student is active.

The Department Director manages the internal information of their Department with the support of the Human Resources manager and the members of the Direction.

It is up to the CMO to decide and communicate all the measures to be taken, for example whether to quarantine also a group of people or the whole class.

In case of individual quarantine, the person concerned shall receive a certificate from the competent authority. This certificate may be requested in case of verification by SUPSI from students and employees.

The General Director and the Directors of Department shall inform Human Resources of the name of their replacement in the event of an impediment or holiday.

4. Accessibility to SUPSI headquarters

In the event of notification of COVID-19 contagion or quarantine ordered by the CMO, recovery of any personal materials from SUPSI premises is strictly prohibited.

The employee or student will arrange with a colleague for any possible delivery of materials at home.
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5. Procedure to be followed for COVID-19-positive employees or those who have had close contact with people found to be positive.

1. Any employee who tests positive for the virus or who becomes aware of having been in close contact with a person who is tested positive must immediately inform their direct supervisor and Human Resources.

The result of a positive test carried out abroad must be actively reported immediately to the Cantonal Medical Office of the Canton of Ticino so that it can assess, by means of an on-site investigation, whether quarantine measures are necessary for persons working in the institution attended by the person in question. The copy of the COVID-19 test with a positive result should be sent, together with a telephone number where the positive person can be reached, to dss-umc@ti.ch.

During office hours, Human Resources are to be contacted via the following numbers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head of Human Resources</th>
<th>Patricia Girolmetti</th>
<th>058 666 6007</th>
<th><a href="mailto:covid.dir@supsi.ch">covid.dir@supsi.ch</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUPSI Direction</td>
<td>Elsa Ducommun</td>
<td>058 666 6080</td>
<td><a href="mailto:covid.dir@supsi.ch">covid.dir@supsi.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DACD</td>
<td>Antonella Biago</td>
<td>058 666 6317</td>
<td><a href="mailto:covid.dacd@supsi.ch">covid.dacd@supsi.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEASS</td>
<td>Pamela Altwegg</td>
<td>058 666 6444</td>
<td><a href="mailto:covid.deass@supsi.ch">covid.deass@supsi.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEASS</td>
<td>Valeria Abate</td>
<td>058 666 6470</td>
<td><a href="mailto:covid.deass@supsi.ch">covid.deass@supsi.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFA</td>
<td>Alessia Giudici</td>
<td>058 666 6804</td>
<td><a href="mailto:covid.dfa@supsi.ch">covid.dfa@supsi.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTI</td>
<td>Jessica Brenna-Boschetti</td>
<td>058 666 6518</td>
<td><a href="mailto:covid.dti@supsi.ch">covid.dti@supsi.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTI</td>
<td>Matteo Lunini</td>
<td>058 666 6726</td>
<td><a href="mailto:covid.dti@supsi.ch">covid.dti@supsi.ch</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. To ensure timely management of cases and communication to colleagues and students with whom the person concerned has had recent direct contact, it is desirable that the positive person also allows his / her name to be communicated internally. The information must be treated confidentially and solely for the purpose of preventing the spread of the virus.

3. An employee who tests positive for the virus must immediately take increased precautions by leaving SUPSI's premises (in particular observing social distancing, wearing a mask and, if work requirements permit, working from home in agreement with his or her immediate superior).

An employee who has had close contact with a positive person must follow the same instructions and follow the instructions of the WTO (further details on Exceptions to the quarantine requirement: link).

In principle, compliance with the protection plans does not lead to quarantine for work colleagues because if the distance is maintained and the mask worn, the concept of close contact is no longer considered.

As far as possible, before leaving the premises, the employee is asked to disinfect his workstation and the surfaces touched.

In case of positivity to COVID-19, the employee must immediately implement increased precautionary measures and leave the premises immediately as indicated above. In such a case, the concerned groups of employees or whole classes could be put isolation, based on the findings of the environmental survey carried out as directed by the CMO for the contact tracing service. In addition, SUPSI could outline additional protective measures.

4. Human Resources shall inform the General Director, the Directors of Department, of Services or Mandate so that any internal precautionary measures can be assessed and adopted. Precautionary measures may be taken independently of or in addition to communication by the CMO.
6. **Procedure to be followed for COVID-19 positive students or those who have had close contact with people found to be positive:**

1. Students who test positive or who are made aware that they have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive are kindly asked to immediately notify their Head of the degree course or Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning course and simultaneously send an email to:

   - Department of Environment Constructions and Design  covid.dacd@supsi.ch
   - Department of Business Economics, Health and Social Care  covid.deass@supsi.ch
   - Department of Education and Learning  covid.dfa@supsi.ch
   - Department of Innovative Technologies  covid.dti@supsi.ch
   - SUPSI Direction  covid.dir@supsi.ch

   providing the following information:

   a. Name and surname
   b. Mobile phone number
   c. Name of degree course or Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning course
   d. Department of reference
   e. Last date of presence in SUPSI

   The **result of a positive test carried out abroad** must be actively reported immediately to the Cantonal Medical Office of the Canton of Ticino so that it can assess, by means of an on-site investigation, whether quarantine measures are necessary for persons working in the institution attended by the person in question. The copy of the COVID-19 test with a positive result should be sent, together with a telephone number where the positive person can be reached, to dss-umc@ti.ch.

2. A student who tests positive for the virus must immediately take increased precautions by leaving SUPSI's premises (in particular, observe social distancing and wear a mask).

   A student who has had close contact with a positive person must follow the same instructions and follow the instructions of the WTO (further details on Exceptions to the quarantine requirement: link).

3. To ensure timely management of cases and communication to colleagues and students with whom the person concerned has had recent direct contact, it is desirable that the positive person also allows his / her name to be communicated internally. The information must be treated confidentially and solely for the purpose of preventing the spread of the virus.

4. The person in charge of the Head of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies or Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning course, involving the Department Director, Human Resources and the person in charge of Head of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies or Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning course of his/her Department, shall assess and adopt any internal precautionary measures to be taken. Precautionary measures may also be taken prior to notification by the CMO or prescribed in addition to those indicated by the CMO itself.

   Human Resources regularly informs the General Director of the cases reported and the measures taken.
7. The Criteria for return to premises following an absence are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation of the absent person</th>
<th>Possibility to return to school</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One of the following symptoms:</td>
<td>In the absence of testing, when, cumulatively:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- fever</td>
<td>- in good health</td>
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<tr>
<td>- a severe, acute cough, even without fever</td>
<td>- the fever and acute cough improved within three days.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- a cold and/or sore throat and/or mild cough, even without fever, if there has been risk contact</td>
<td>- has gone 24 hours without a fever</td>
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<tr>
<td>with a symptomatic person for whom there is not yet a negative test or with a person who has</td>
<td>- no other symptoms of COVID-19 appear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tested positive, especially within the family</td>
<td>(gastrointestinal symptoms, headaches, joint pain, loss of taste or smell)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With a negative test, when:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- has gone 24 hours without a fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>That is, unless there has been risky contact with a person who has tested positive, in which case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the person will be quarantined at home for the time specified</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Person with a negative COVID-19 test or person with another diagnosis that justifies the</td>
<td>24 hours after symptoms end.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>symptoms as long as the diagnosis is made by a physician</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person absent due to quarantine</td>
<td>At the end of quarantine (10 days from the day the sick person was placed in isolation if they</td>
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<td>live together, otherwise 10 days from the last contact), provided they have not developed any</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>symptoms in the meantime.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The quarantine days may be reduced to seven days if the result of a rapid antigen test or PCR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>test is negative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person absent due to isolation, with symptoms and with positive COVID-19 test</td>
<td>48 hours after the disappearance of the last symptom if at least 10 days have passed since their</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>appearance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General behaviour applicable for all employees and students:

When returning from a period of isolation or quarantine, all protective measures (hand hygiene, social distancing, correct use of the mask, ventilation of rooms, etc.) must continue to be followed scrupulously.
8. Communications as part of the activation of this protocol

From a communication point of view, the Protocol provides for the following:

- The protection of privacy must be respected by all employees and students. Under no circumstances may information relating to the identity of the person involved be disclosed to third parties without their express consent.
- On the basis of this principle, the Departmental Directors, together with Human Resources, manage internal communication.
- Given that close contacts are traced and will already be informed through the CMO (Cantonal Medical Office), SUPSI can inform the class and colleagues involved, in a confidential manner (depending on the case, anonymously or nominally with the authorization of the person concerned).
- External communication at institutional level is always managed by the General Director, in agreement with the relevant SUPSI Direction members.

9. What happens if a COVID-19 positive case is detected in a class?

An extensive environmental investigation is expected from the first positive case in a class thanks to the use of rapid antigen tests.

Starting from 3 May, 2021, the SUPSI Direction will be contacted by the cantonal medical officer's office in case it is necessary to carry out rapid antigen tests in one or more classes.

A rapid antigenic test should be performed immediately on the appearance of the first positive case and a second rapid antigenic test after 5 days if the first rapid test detects a second positive case over a seven-day period. The first test is aimed at finding a possible asymptomatic student at the origin of the infection, while the test after 5 days is aimed at identifying any secondary cases. The date of the second test will be specifically indicated by the CMO.

The protocol for the management of COVID-19 positivity cases is structured as follows:

- In the presence of a positive case in class, a mobile team of the Ticino Ambulance Services Federation (FCTSA) will be called to intervene by the CMO to perform a rapid antigen test to all students in the class and to teachers who have had at least two hours of lessons with the class during the period of contagiousness of the positive case; if necessary, the test is carried out at school the next day or on the first working day.
- The test response is given within 20 minutes, those who test positive must undergo a confirmation PCR test and remain isolated at home until the test result.
- In the presence of a maximum of two positive cases in the class, negative students return to school immediately, with strict adherence to school and extracurricular protection measures, and the class is encouraged to undergo a second rapid antigen test after 5 days.
- Teachers tested negative, regardless of the number of positive students in the class, may continue to teach classes.
- If there are more than two positive cases, the entire class is immediately quarantined.

Whether or not the class is quarantined, beginning with the second case, students in the class who tested negative on the first test are asked to take a second rapid antigen test beginning on the 5th day at an authorised pharmacy and report the negative result to the SUPSI Direction. If positive, a confirmation PCR test must be performed and, if confirmed, the further procedure is decided by the Cantonal Medical Office.

The consent of students and school staff does not require any formalization but is given or not at the time when asked to take the test.

Anyone who decides not to take the test organized by the CMO will be quarantined to protect the health of the group.

Return to school is possible (in the case of a student and the class has not already been quarantined) by presenting proof of a negative test (rapid antigen or PCR) which can be performed either at a pharmacy...
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A negative result obtained from a self-testing antigen test is not considered valid by the CMO.

If, however, it is positive, this positivity will be included in the positive student count to determine the need for a Day 5 test or the intimation of a class quarantine.

In the case of students who follow a dual education (school-work) and for which not always, when there is a positive case, is the whole class present for the test to be carried out on the premises, it is recommended that the rapid tests be carried out in a pharmacy or at the doctor instead of at school. Resumption of in attendance school activity or professional activity is contingent upon the entire class testing negative, but pending the overall outcome of the class test, negative students and teachers may return to their activity by applying increased protective measures. This means, in addition to masks and frequent hand disinfection, keeping your distance and eating lunch and spending breaks alone.

Franco Gervasoni
SUPSI General Director