

February 11, 2021

Dear Campus Community,

This afternoon (February 11th), a member of our Emergency Operations Team was notified that an LCC employee and student have tested positive for COVID-19. The employee and student both participate in our Early Learning Center Program and were last on campus February 9th. They are both in isolation. Out of an abundance of caution, the Early Learning Center will be closed until February 24th. All employees and students identified as close contacts have been notified.

I understand that this news is concerning, and want to assure you that we are actively following guidance from the [Cowlitz County Health Department](#) and recommendations from the [Washington State Department of Health](#) and [U.S Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#).

Due to privacy laws, we cannot share the name of the individual or other personally identifiable information. Individuals who are known to have direct close contact with this person, and people impacted by any cleaning-related facilities closures will be contacted with specific instructions.

Anyone with [symptoms of COVID-19](#), or who may have been exposed to someone with a confirmed case, is encouraged to self-quarantine and contact their health care provider for guidance. To help keep our campus community safe, please also let us know by emailing covid@lowercolumbia.edu or calling Jason Arrowsmith at (360) 442-2270. Your information will be kept confidential, and we will connect you with campus support options while you work through your symptoms or positive test result.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please email covid@lowercolumbia.edu. Updates and information about the virus, including links to resources, are available on our website at lowercolumbia.edu/covid-19.

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health.

- Students, our counselors are available to serve you during this time of uncertainty. Please contact them at lcromwell@lowercolumbia.edu or jhouge@lowercolumbia.edu to request assistance. This is a free and confidential service.
- Employees, during this stressful time, remember the [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) is available. EAP services are free and confidential.

Please be well, and don't forget to wear a face covering and wash your hands frequently.

Sincerely, Nolan

Nolan K. Wheeler
Vice President of Administration
Lower Columbia College