

December 28, 2021

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Company Abandons COVID Contact Tracing

The Company, against our strong objection, has informed ALPA that the COVID Care Team will no longer be conducting contact tracing for pilots who test positive for COVID-19. With this change in policy, pilots who test positive should ask the FO COVID Care Team (focovid@united.com) for assistance informing any crewmember close contacts if you develop symptoms and/or test positive within 48 hours after a trip. Close contact is [defined](#) as being less than 6 feet away from an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control](#), “the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after.” And, “For all those exposed, best practice would also include a test for SARS-CoV-2 at day 5 after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.”

Changes to COVID Reporting Requirements

The Company also announced that COVID reporting and return to work requirements have been made less stringent, putting us in line with the CDC and the rest of the airline industry. See CCS for the latest guidance titled “[COVID-19 required reporting changes](#)” December 27, 2021.

From CCS:

Beginning December 27, pilots are only required to report to FOCOVID@united.com:

- *A positive COVID-19 test result / medical diagnosis from your physician*
- *A household member’s positive test result **IF** the pilot also has symptoms of COVID-19*

Also, the return-to-work requirements after receiving a negative test result (taken for symptoms) will no longer require a 10-day wait or clearance from Corporate Medical.