

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Monday's Testing Clinic: A Public Health Update
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 11:17:07 AM



A Message From the Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Public Health

January 29, 2021

Good morning!

This week, there were 16 new cases of COVID-19 reported to Health Services, 9 of which had some contact with campus within the 48-hour period prior to symptom onset. All symptomatic or positive cases are isolated, and 22 individuals are in quarantine due to close contact exposure. Please remember to call Health Services at 864-503-5191 if you have tested positive, been exposed, or feel unwell.

On Monday, February 1, we are pleased to be partnering with the SC Strong antibody testing initiative to offer a **very limited** number of antibody tests on campus by **pre-registered appointment only**. Testing will include a fingerstick to test antibodies **and** a PCR nasal swab to check for COVID. Please note: **No walk-in COVID testing will be offered at this clinic**. If you need a routine COVID test, please visit the Spartanburg Regional Testing Center. The location for the antibody testing is the 3rd floor track area of the Spartan Rec Center in the Health Education Complex (HEC). **Because slots are limited, register quickly [HERE](#) if you would like to participate.** Please do not call Health Services to schedule.

The next on-campus routine COVID testing clinic will take place Monday, February 15. Free testing remains available at the Spartanburg Regional Testing Center Monday – Friday, and symptomatic testing is also available at Health Services by appointment.

Yesterday, SC DHEC announced that one of the new COVID-19 strains, B.1.351, was detected in a random sampling of South Carolina cases. DHEC stated in its media release, “Experts agree that existing vaccines work to protect us from this variant, even if we don’t know precisely how effective they are. At this time, there’s no evidence to suggest that the B.1.351 variant causes more severe illness.”

Phase 1a of vaccine distribution is underway, with more than 350,000 COVID-19 vaccines already administered in South Carolina, and more than 26 million nationwide. Find more information on COVID-19 vaccines on the [CDC website](#).

Some of the most effective tools we have to prevent illness are [proper mask use](#), social distancing

and hand hygiene. Ensure your mask covers your nose and chin, and be aware that wearing two masks provides extra layers of filtration and protection. Please continue to follow all CDC and state guidelines to protect yourself and our community.

Stay safe, Spartans!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary D. Bucher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary D. Bucher, MS, APRN, FNP
Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Public Health

University of South Carolina Upstate

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***Up* is where we live.**