

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Weekly Public Health Update
Date: Friday, March 12, 2021 11:37:04 AM



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

March 12, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have had a good Spring Break. As we look to the future, I want to share some details about how we can remain safe in the present moment, as the COVID-19 pandemic improves with the expansion of vaccine access.

Though [South Carolina cases](#) are decreasing, Spartanburg and Greenville Counties still have a high incidence of COVID-19, and precautions of masks and social distancing are critical. USC Upstate mask and distancing policies remain in place to prevent exposure to, and spread of, COVID-19.

I encourage anyone who has not considered and registered for vaccination to do so, to prevent quarantine and severe, potentially fatal illness if you are exposed.

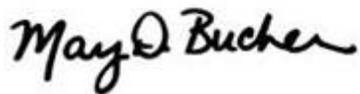
- Sign up using the [USC Upstate Vaccine Registration Form](#), and allow a few business days to get access to the VAMS system.
- If you have signed up and are having difficulty finding an appointment, check again this afternoon and this weekend at multiple sites within 20 miles of your home.

These measures, though inconvenient at times, are effective in saving lives. This year to date, there were no known cases of classroom exposure or workplace exposure that resulted in COVID-19 infection on campus when precautions were in place. We have maintained a campus environment free of spread of illness by following CDC and DHEC guidance, and through the efforts of our custodial team to maintain a clean environment. Our Health Services team is working hard in testing and tracing all known suspected cases, and our housing team provides quarantine and isolation housing for residential students. As students return from Spring Break and we increase the human presence on campus, we must continue all of these measures.

Thankfully, USC Upstate has seen a downward trend in campus cases, and I am happy to share that for the fifth consecutive week, our campus benchmarks remain below the level of increased risk. In accordance with COVID-19 Response Team benchmarks, we have shifted our campus status back to “New Normal.” Please know that this represents a stable state of campus over the last month, with access to same-day testing and the expanding availability of vaccines.

You may find more information on the [USC Upstate COVID-19 Resource Page](#).

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