



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

March 19, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to campus, if you are fully returning or will be doing so in the weeks to come. COVID has certainly been a time of adjustment for all of us, and we have received many questions, from both newly returning employees and those who have already been here on campus. Please find information below about campus processes and policies in place this semester. These remain in effect until otherwise notified. COVID-19 remains a highly transmissible illness prevalent in the Upstate, and safety precautions keep us all from spreading the illness to one another.

Safety precautions and health protocols on campus include:

- **On-campus COVID-19 testing clinics:** Free testing is provided to screen for asymptomatic illness on campus, no appointment required, every other week. Appointments are available at Health Services daily for anyone with symptoms who may need testing. The next asymptomatic screening clinic is Monday, March 22, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the Spartan Recreation Center. For the remainder of the semester, the clinic testing will be a PCR saliva sample, in partnership with the USC School of Pharmacy. This testing is effective in identifying currently infectious COVID-19 cases, and positive cases may be tested for variants as well. If attending, please do not eat, use tobacco, or chew gum within 30 minutes of the test, or drink water within 10 minutes of testing. Find the spring testing schedule and additional information [here](#).
- **Face covering requirements:** You are required to wear a cloth face covering in all indoor public spaces, except designated dining and exercise areas. Cloth face coverings, covering the nose, mouth, and chin, are highly effective at mitigating COVID-19 transmission.
 - If you have a private office, any time two people are gathered, face coverings should be worn, even if distancing is in place.
 - Outdoors, face coverings should be worn if a distance of 6 feet cannot be maintained, and at designated group events per that event policy.
 - Face shields covering the nose and mouth and extending below the chin are an alternative only allowable if required for health reasons.
 - [CDC Information: Your Guide to Masks](#)
 - [DHEC Mask Use Video](#)

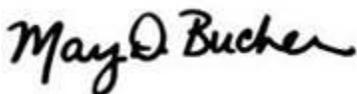
- **Social distancing:** Social distancing of 6 feet should be maintained whenever feasible with co-workers, at events, and in working with students and the public. For the comfort and safety of all, please be particularly attentive to maintaining distance with co-workers and others who work in roles with in-person interaction. Our natural tendency may be to move closer than 6 feet, so thank you for your attention. If feasible, please maintain a distance of 6 feet when seated in dining areas when masks are removed.
- **Nightly disinfection to high touch surfaces by custodial services:** No tag or notification is used in general areas. Individuals are responsible to disinfect their own spaces with disinfectant wipes. Notify your supervisor if you are in need of cleaning supplies for your space.
- **Individuals should stay home when sick.** Health Services has same-day COVID testing available for symptomatic individuals. Call (864) 503-5191 to schedule an appointment for drive-up testing if indicated.
- **Positive cases occurring on or off campus should be reported to Health Services at (864) 503-5191.** Individuals should report illness. However, supervisors and faculty members may also report information received and request Health Services outreach to a member of the campus community.

Campus Resource Links:

- [USC Upstate COVID-19 Resource Page](#)
- [USC Upstate COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Form](#)
- [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#)
- [Human Resources](#)
- [Employee Relations](#)

This week no cases were reported on campus, and all off-campus reported cases were given isolation guidance, traced, and close contacts quarantined. Those with symptoms stayed home and tested, which is one of the many measures that helps keep our campus environment safe. Thank you for adhering to the guidance and policies above to protect yourself and our campus community through this pandemic. I encourage you to register for vaccination using the [USC Upstate COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Form](#) if you have not already done so.

Sincerely,



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

