UPSTATE | **OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR**
University of South Carolina

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

August 24, 2021

Dear Campus Community,

As we continue to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on campus, please review these critical instructions and answers to Frequently Asked Questions to protect the health and safety of all on campus:

If you feel sick (whether you are vaccinated or unvaccinated), including symptoms of a "tummy bug," please DO NOT go to class or work and call Health Services at 864-503-5191 to speak with a member of our Health Services team. If you receive notification that you were exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, and you are not fully vaccinated, you must NOT go to class, enter campus buildings, go to work, or go to outdoor events. You now meet criteria for quarantine and must report this to Health Services at 864-503-5191. If you are identified in a campus contact tracing investigation, you will be notified by Health Services.

About Testing, Vaccines and Quarantine

Where can I get tested for COVID-19?

• Free, same-day testing is available at Health Services for those with symptoms of COVID-19, or those who have been exposed with high risk for transmission to others.

• If you are requesting a COVID-19 test prior to travel, for exposure while vaccinated, or to meet Converse University or other third-party requirements, please utilize the DHEC drive-through testing site located at **1035 North Church Street**. This location offers COVID PCR swab testing. Pre-registration is highly recommended but not required https://covidtest.dhec.sc.gov/en-US/

• Results are typically available within 48 hours. If results are not received in 72 hours, you may send an email to ACC-Testing-CustomerService@dhec.sc.gov to get results. To test without symptoms or exposure, please utilize the DHEC clinic on North Church Street.

• Search the South Carolina COVID-19 Testing Locator and enter your county to find additional sites near your home; costs and hours are included online.

What if I test positive for COVID-19?

- If you test positive for COVID-19, you must notify Health Services at 864-503-5191.

- You must not attend work, class or enter public spaces; you should have your own bedroom and bathroom, wear a mask in all common areas, and disinfect any shared surfaces within a household.

- It is advised to have a plan ready; know where you could safely isolate for 10 days with access to the food and supplies you'll need.

- Regarding duration of restrictions and absence from work and class, Health Services follows CDC and DHEC criteria: 10 days for mild and moderate illness, 20 days for severe symptoms requiring hospitalization or prolonged recovery.

What if I am exposed to COVID-19 and I am unvaccinated?

- You must notify Health Services at 864-503-5191 if you have been exposed to COVID-19 and are unvaccinated; you are at very high risk of developing COVID-19 and transmitting it to others, and meet DHEC criteria to quarantine.

- A Health Services or DHEC contact tracing team may notify you of campus or other exposure and a need to quarantine.

- If you meet criteria for quarantine, you must not attend work, class or enter public spaces, and should have your own bedroom and bathroom.

- Due to the prevalence of COVID-19, it is advised that you have a quarantine plan ready; know where you could safely isolate for a minimum of 7-10 days with access to the food and supplies you'll need.

- Regarding duration of restrictions and absence from work and class, Health Services follows CDC and DHEC criteria:

  o Exposed, unvaccinated individuals must have a minimum 7-day quarantine (a negative COVID-19 test is required to release on Day 7), with 14 days of self-monitoring and crowd avoidance.
  o If symptoms occur within a 14-day period, or transmission to others prior to quarantine notification is a concern, some individuals may test more than once while in quarantine.
  o If negative test results are not received to meet criteria to end quarantine after 7 days, a 10-day minimum quarantine from class and work will be required.

What if I am exposed to COVID-19 and I am vaccinated?

- Test 3-5 days after you were exposed at the DHEC Spartanburg drive-through testing site at 1035 N. Church Street. You can find a DHEC drive-through pre-registration link (recommended, not required) here: https://covidtest.dhec.sc.gov/en-US/
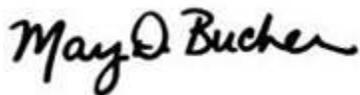
- Wear a mask in all indoor public areas on and off campus and avoid crowds until you have negative test results. There is no quarantine indicated if you are symptom-free and have a negative test.

- Call Health Services if symptoms develop or you test positive.

Where can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

- Vaccinations save lives and protect our community. On August 23, 2021, the FDA granted full approval to the first COVID-19 vaccine. You may find the [FDA press release](#) online.

- Find COVID-19 [vaccine education links](#) on the university website and on Blackboard, including a link to an interactive vaccine Q&A with DHEC epidemiologist Dr. Jane Kelly.

- If you are vaccinated, please upload your vaccine card to [MyHealth](#).

- Health Services currently has Moderna vaccines in stock. Please call 864-503-5191 to schedule an appointment if you would like to begin your vaccine series.

Let's stay safe!

Sincerely,

Mary D Bucher

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Up **is where we live.**