

September 10, 2021

To Faculty, Staff and Students,

As we were last year, we are committed to communicating with you regularly about the impacts of COVID-19 on our campus. Our response to this ongoing crisis has been timely and effective. Mitigation strategies continue to work to minimize spread of the virus. That said, we cannot relax. **We must continue to place health and safety first by wearing masks, social distancing, and most importantly, getting vaccinated.** If you have not yet been vaccinated, please consider doing so. It is the best way to ensure that we can enjoy all that USC Upstate has to offer this fall.

Moving forward, we will aim to send pandemic-related updates every Friday. These updates will include information to be shared by USC Upstate Health Services, but also the divisions of Academic Affairs and Facilities. You can always find [current information on the university website](#), including vaccine clinic dates.

#### Health Services

- We are pleased to report strong pre-registration numbers for our first Pfizer vaccine clinic. **Note: A Pfizer vaccine clinic is available today in the Spartan Recreation Center until 2:30 pm, accepting walk-ins for individuals who would like to start their vaccine series.** Another clinic is scheduled for October 1.
- Once vaccinated, please remember to upload your vaccination card to [MyHealth](#) to become eligible for the many prize drawings we'll hold this semester.
- We continue to build out our COVID-19 [data dashboard](#), which is updated weekly. The dashboard reflects details about current conditions on campus.

## Academic Affairs

- On Thursday, Sept. 16, from 12:10-1:10 p.m., our [Wells Fargo Speaker Series](#) will feature Jamie Blair, interim director of SC DHEC's Bureau of Public Health Preparedness. Please register if you'd like to attend in person. The event will be held in Room 150 at the George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics. Masks are required. A virtual option is available.
- Members of Academic Affairs, the COVID-19 Response Team, and Enrollment Services have completed a review of classroom capacities to accommodate increased social distancing when possible. If you feel your classroom space should be evaluated, please contact Chelli Nottoly in Enrollment Services.
- We have received two resolutions from the General Faculty and have since responded to the first resolution, "Safe Return to Campus." Provost Schecter will send a response to the second resolution, "Teaching Modality." We will continue to communicate, in full transparency, any updates to safety and compliance measures we have put in place, and to report out on any new safety initiatives. We encourage faculty to work with their department chairs and deans to address additional concerns.

## Facilities

- The Facilities team closely monitors air systems on campus and is constantly working to identify opportunities to maximize efficiency and effectiveness of our mechanical equipment. The university uses Merv 8 Tri Dim air filters with an antimicrobial treatment in all air handlers.
- Facilities has installed energy-efficient mechanical controls to ensure that equipment generates the maximum allowable fresh/filtered air. Additionally, we utilize HEPA filters in specific classrooms and portable air purifiers as needed.
- We have installed UV lighting in many of our mechanical systems to assist with cleaning air.
- Dedicated staff work additional hours to sustain our preventive maintenance action plan on all equipment.

Thank you for continuing to keep our campus community safe.

Sincerely,



Bennie L. Harris  
Chancellor

**University of South Carolina Upstate**  
800 University Way | Spartanburg, SC 29303

*Up* is where we live.