

**From:** [Office of the Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** Fall Break Safety: A Message From the Interim Chancellor  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 5:10:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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To Our Faculty, Staff and Students,

It's hard to believe it is already mid-October and we are seeing the fall colors on our beautiful campus. As we approach this semester's mid-point, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to you. Thank you for your work to persevere through this most unusual year.

More specifically, I am grateful for your collective efforts to keep our campus community safe amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot let down our guard, however. As we prepare for Fall Break, it is critical that we continue to adhere to the health and safety standards designed to minimize spread of the virus. This is especially true if you will travel over the long weekend to see family or friends.

Over the last few days, we have seen an uptick in positive cases at USC Upstate. While this is not unexpected, and our numbers are still relatively low, it is critical that we remain vigilant. Please review and adhere to these measures:

- Please wear a mask when around other people, indoors or outdoors. Even if you are asymptomatic, you can unwittingly spread the virus to others. Wearing a mask and maintaining physical distance are among the most effective measures you can take to minimize transmission of COVID-19.
- The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is now recommending that everyone be tested for COVID-19 **once a month**, even in the absence of symptoms. Free testing continues to be available to us at the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System's drive-through location, 1035 N. Church Street, which is just a few miles from campus. It is quick and easy. My test yesterday around lunchtime took only 5-10 minutes.
- If you have not yet been tested for COVID-19, we strongly encourage you to do so. When you receive your results, please report them confidentially to Health Services at 864-503-5191. The more data we have about our campus community, the better we can employ contact tracing and mitigate spread.
- If you should receive a positive test result during Fall Break, or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, **please do not return to campus**. Instead, please contact Health Services at 864-503-5191.
- If you haven't received a flu shot this season, please do so as soon as possible. Flu shots are

widely available at community pharmacies and are especially important as we continue to navigate the pandemic. Some pharmacies are even offering monetary incentives to those getting flu shots.

Again, masks and social distancing have been proven to be most effective in protecting yourself and others from COVID-19. Please enjoy this well-deserved break ... and please be safe. We look forward to finishing the semester strong!

Go Spartans,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Derham Cole, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

J. Derham Cole, Jr.  
Interim Chancellor

**University of South Carolina Upstate**

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