

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: Weekly Public Health Update
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A Message From the Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Public Health

January 22, 2021

Good afternoon!

It has been a busy two weeks supporting our return to campus following the holiday break. This week, there were 13 new cases of COVID-19 reported to Health Services, and 36 individuals are in quarantine from exposure. We are fortunate to have a dedicated campus contact tracing team of trained and experienced nurses to educate individuals about their isolation, trace sources of illness, quarantine close contacts, and identify any other needs related to a case. Our team works quickly, and all known cases have been isolated, and contacts notified and quarantined.

Additionally, allow me to share these clarifications and updates:

Campus Mask Policy: Masks are required indoors unless in a private office alone, or in a designated eating area with distancing in place. Outdoors, masks are required if a minimum of 6 feet of distance from others is not easily and consistently maintained. You may hear of upcoming outdoor events that are in planning stages, including Homecoming and Graduation. Please be aware that mask policies and other mitigation measures will be in effect to minimize risk.

Illness and Exposure Reporting: Please call Health Services at 864-503-5191 if you experience symptoms, receive a positive test result, or are alerted about an exposure. Health Services does have on-site testing by appointment if high-risk circumstances indicate need for same-day testing.

Spring Surveillance Testing Clinics: The next COVID-19 on-campus surveillance testing clinic is scheduled for February 1, 2021. We are working with the SC Strong Initiative, and plan to provide free antibody testing at an upcoming clinic. Stay tuned for further details as we work with our collaborators to finalize logistics.

COVID-19 Vaccinations: South Carolina remains in Phase 1a of vaccine distribution. This week, the Spartanburg Regional vaccination distribution center at the URC got off to a great start, as Spartans and community members in 1a began getting vaccinated. In South Carolina, more than 200,000 doses of the vaccine have been administered, and across our nation, more than 17 million doses have been administered. New things can feel concerning as we evaluate our choices, but please know this vaccine has been deemed safe and effective, and new data supports this every day as millions worldwide receive the vaccine to fight this pandemic.

Stay safe, Spartans! Please wear masks and take precautions at work and at home to protect yourself, your loved ones, and community.

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

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