
COVID-19 Update: January 4, 2021

1 message

UCA President's Office <presidentsoffice@uca.edu>
Reply-To: noreply@uca.edu
To: FS <fs@uca.edu>

Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 11:58 AM

Dear UCA Faculty and Staff:

Happy New Year! I hope all of you were able to get some much-needed rest during the break. As many of us return to campus in the coming days and prepare for the spring 2021 semester, I wanted to touch base and briefly update you on a few important topics.

RETURN-TO-WORK AGREEMENT

As mentioned in my last communication, we are requiring all UCA employees to sign the Return-to-Work agreement before physically reporting to work on campus. The form is attached to this email. If you have not already done so, please print, sign, and return the agreement to your supervisor before returning to campus this month. Supervisors are responsible for collecting these forms and maintaining them for departmental records. If you have any questions regarding this agreement, please contact humanresources@uca.edu.

COVID-19 MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Thanks to months of planning, incredible teamwork, and the dedication of our entire campus community, we had a very successful fall semester. However, now is not the time to relax our COVID-19 policies and protocols. Above all, the past year has continually reminded us to expect the unexpected and prepare for scenarios we once thought unimaginable. While COVID-19 vaccines are on the horizon, it could be some time before there is widespread availability. We will keep the entire campus informed as we get more information related to vaccines.

With these things in mind, we will continue to follow **all** of the COVID-19 policies and procedures set forth in the fall. This means that employees and students will still be required to wear face coverings when in enclosed spaces and when moving through common areas. Face coverings should also be worn outside when physical distancing is not possible. UCA will provide new face coverings to employees if needed; additional face coverings and other PPE may be requested through the [PPE request form](#).

We will also continue to practice enhanced cleaning and sanitizing; observe distancing guidelines in campus buildings and in enclosed spaces; implement our testing, tracing, and isolation protocol; and uphold and enforce all policies regarding campus events, meetings, and campus visitors.

Our hope is that this continued diligence in the spring will ensure another successful semester for our students and entire campus community. You can review all of the aforementioned policies on the updated COVID-19 [website here](#).

SELF SCREENING AND QUARANTINE POLICY

It has been said many times before, but it bears repeating: **If you are sick or if you know you have been a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, do not come to campus.**

If you have had any of the following symptoms, stay home and contact your healthcare provider or the Student Health Clinic (SHC) immediately:

- A fever of 100.4 degrees or greater in the last two days;
- A cough;
- Difficulty breathing;
- A sore throat;
- Or a loss of taste and smell

If you are awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test, do not return to campus until you have received a negative test result or have been cleared by a medical professional to return to work.

Additionally, if you have had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19, it is imperative that you stay home and quarantine until cleared by a medical professional.

As a reminder, Dr. Randy Pastor, director of the SHC, has developed a protocol outlining the steps faculty and staff should take if they get a positive COVID-19 diagnosis or if they are identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive. The protocol may be [found here](#), under “What to Do If You Are Sick.”

COVID-19 TESTING REMINDERS

If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 or fear that you may have been exposed and need to be tested, you have several options. If you are symptomatic, the SHC offers a rapid PCR-based test that provides results in around 15 minutes. The SHC also offers a PCR-based test for individuals who are not symptomatic but would like to get tested. Specimens are sent to a local lab, and results are typically returned in around 24 hours. Call the SHC at (501) 450-3136 or email covid19@uca.edu for more information.

If you need medical assistance after hours, contact Conway Regional Health System at (501) 506-CRHS (2747). Conway Regional provides [drive-thru testing](#) as well as an [after-hours clinic](#).

We are continuing to work with the Arkansas Department of Health to host a free COVID-19 testing event on Jan. 20 for students, faculty, and staff. We will provide additional details soon.

As always, I appreciate your hard work and diligence over the past year and as we turn our focus to the spring and summer semesters. I know the conditions and changes forced by the pandemic have been challenging and tiring, to say the least. However, I continue to be inspired daily by the resilience shown by our faculty, staff, and students. As we look to the spring, I feel a great sense of hope and excitement for the many opportunities that lie ahead. I hope you will, too. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely,

Houston Davis

President