

## Testing and Positive Case Protocol

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Office of the Provost



August 27, 2021

Dear Howard University Community,

Earlier this week, we introduced the distributed self-monitored COVID-19 testing process that will continue for the remainder of the semester. Yesterday, over 800 students, faculty and staff were tested in sites in the Blackburn Center, Louis Stokes Health Sciences Library and Undergraduate Library as well as the Family Practice Plan site in the Hospital Towers. Testing will continue in those locations today and will include West Campus and various residence halls on Monday, August 30, 2021. Students can expect to be

notified of when they will be required to test, and students residing on campus will have additional access to test in their respective residence halls.

We understand that there will be positive cases, despite our efforts to mitigate transmission due to the new delta variant of COVID-19. This variant is highly transferrable, and we anticipate that there will be positives. Many experts have indicated that COVID-19 is here to stay, and we must do what we can to mitigate risk. What we do know is that, if you are vaccinated, the risk of any serious illness is extremely low. That is why we have required vaccinations for the entire community. We want to avoid any serious illnesses and death.

The pop-up testing sites tested 644 students and 117 faculty and staff who participated in the distributed self-monitored testing process. Among the students, eight were positive (1.2 percent), and among the faculty and staff, two tested positive (1.7 percent). Each of these individuals are being contacted in activation of our contact tracing process. This week, we have completed 2,318 tests, which resulted in a 1.2 percent overall positivity rate across faculty, staff and students. The percentage positivity rate is consistent with past positivity rates from the past year. This is promising information.

Through our internal testing mechanism, any students or employees who test positive will be notified directly via email. In the case of students, the Student Health Center will also be notified. In the case of employees, a designated human resources official will also be notified.

Additional details regarding the full testing, quarantine and tracing protocols are available on the [testing and protocol page](#) of the Bison Safe website.

**If students test positive**, the results will be reported to the respective schools' student affairs representatives considering the public health risks and the safety of the University community. Students who test positive must obtain clearance for return to class/campus from the Student Health Center prior to return.

**If employees test positive**, their supervisors will be notified that they are not able to be on campus. Employees must secure clearance to return to campus by demonstrating two negative PCR tests 24 hours apart prior to returning to campus. Testing will be offered via the testing center (Room 3600 FPP Hospital Towers Building) for those who need it.

**If students or employees obtain a positive test result from an external**

**testing site, they should report this in the Bison Safe app. (Please answer “yes” to the question regarding testing positive in the last 10 days.) That will trigger our protocols.** We regularly update the community regarding the status of the number of positive tests on campus on the COVID-19 dashboard as well as other important information. As a reminder, you can visit the Bison Safe website to:

- [View COVID-19 testing dashboard results;](#)
- [View testing and protocols ;](#)
- [Get answers to common questions for students;](#)
- [Get answers to common questions for staff and faculty;](#)
- [Downloading the Bison Safe app;](#) and
- [Viewing past important announcements.](#)

We will also provide additional communications regarding any spikes or clusters that are identified in a particular school or college, dormitory, or other indication of significant spread.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation as we work together to keep our community safe.

Excellence in Truth and Service,

Anthony K. Wutoh, Ph.D., R.Ph.  
Provost & Chief Academic Officer

Hugh E. Mighty, M.D., MBA, FACOG  
Dean, College of Medicine  
Vice President of Clinical Affairs



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