



Fall 2021 Planning Update

Dear UT Austin Community,

We hope this message finds you well this summer. As President Hartzell has mentioned, the university is embarking upon a phased approach to returning our campus to near normal. We know that you may have questions about operations and logistics as many who have been working remotely make our way back to campus in the coming months.

To provide information about Summer and Fall 2021 plans, we are launching this newsletter for all faculty and staff. This edition includes information on outdoor and indoor occupancy, staying safe, flexible work arrangements and preparing for a return to campus. More information will be shared in future newsletters as we progress through the summer toward the fall semester.

For more information including extensive FAQs, please visit the [Protect Texas Together](#) website, which is frequently updated. The updated [Health & Wellness Guidance](#) document also provides more detail on the information below.

Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to the university.

Cindy Posey

Director of Internal Communications

Outdoor and Indoor Occupancy Changes

On campus, you will notice the gradual removal of signage, floor stickers, taped-off seating and other visuals that aid physical distancing as we head towards a phased approach to full occupancy in mid-August. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), physical distancing, or staying 6 feet away from others, does not need to be maintained by individuals who are fully vaccinated.

New Event Guidance

- All outdoor events may immediately return to 100% occupancy.
- Occupancy for all indoor events:
 - From current date through June 30: no more than 50%
 - July 1-August 15: no more than 75%
 - August 16 and beyond: 100% occupancy
- If an individual has any COVID-19 symptoms including any respiratory symptoms or is feeling unwell in any way, they should not attend the meeting or event.
- If individuals become diagnosed with COVID-19 within 10 days of attending an event, they should notify event organizers and cooperate with contact tracing efforts. Attendees who are members of the UT community can report their positive test via the self-report form. If an event organizer learns of a guest who tests positive within 10 days of the event, the host should report it to University Health Services or the Occupational Health Program.

- If attendance records are not otherwise kept, event managers should create a roster of the meeting or event attendees and remit to UT Health Austin for public health purposes.
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Updated Classroom, Lab and Office Space Guidance

All Classroom Space Types

- 100% occupancy for all classroom types and teaching labs beginning August 16, 2021.
- Assigned seating charts and attendance should be kept for one month to facilitate contact tracing efforts.

Teaching Labs

- Provide hand sanitizer. Place handwashing stations or hand sanitizers in multiple locations to encourage hand hygiene.
- Keep a monitoring log of students who participated in each lab session space for one month to facilitate contact tracing efforts.

Research Labs/Spaces

- Document time and location while in the research space (maintain for one month) to facilitate contact tracing efforts.
- April 15-May 14: Research Level 2 (50-70% occupancy limit)
- May 15-June 30: Research Level 1 (70-85% occupancy limit)
- July 1: Research Level 0 (100% occupancy)

Return of Remote Staff to Office Space

- Up to 50% of the workforce is permitted through June 30.
- Up to 75% of the workforce is permitted from July 1-August 15, 2021.
- Beginning August 16, 2021, 100% of the workforce is permitted.

For detailed guidance related to classrooms, labs and office space, please read the [guidance document](#).

Proactive Community Testing (PCT): New Rapid Testing Option

The university will continue to provide free, quick and painless COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic UT Austin students and employees. Participating in testing, even when fully vaccinated, helps the campus community monitor and respond to COVID-19 cases. The PCT program now offers two types of tests: the PCR Saliva Sample, with results in 8-36 hours, and the new Rapid Antigen Nasal Swab, with a turnaround time of 15-30 minutes. The Rapid Antigen Nasal Swab allows for quicker identification of infectiousness. Visit the [Healthyhorns website](#) to learn more about the advantages, hours, qualifications for and recommended frequency of each test.

Getting Vaccinated on Campus

If you have not been vaccinated, we encourage you to consider doing so. Individuals who meet the [state-defined eligibility criteria](#) and want to receive the vaccine from the university can walk in to UT Health Austin on the first floor of the Health Transformation Building between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday or request an appointment by filling out the [COVID-19 Vaccine Form](#).

Updated Masking Guidance

Masks are optional inside university buildings and outdoors. For individuals who are not fully vaccinated or who have weakened immune systems, masking is recommended but optional inside

university buildings, consistent with the governor's executive order and guidance from the CDC.

Flexible Work Arrangements (FWA)

President Hartzell explained our transition to FWA's in his [June 2 email](#). To meet the challenges, opportunities and excitement of our 2021-2022 academic year with the same professionalism, energy and compassion with which we tackled the pandemic at its peak, each college, school and unit (CSU) is determining if and how they might implement FWA's following their own customized guidelines.

If you have questions about your CSU's plans or your own FWA, please contact your supervisor.

Preparing to Return to Campus

As we carefully prepare for those who have worked remotely to have a safe transition back to campus, we encourage you to continue practicing healthy behavior and self-care, and to maintain your physical and mental well-being. The [Employee Assistance Program](#) offers [counseling sessions](#) and [stress management](#) resources.

The university will continue to monitor conditions and act in accordance with the guidance of the CDC and state officials. The university has maintained its robust testing capabilities along with contact tracing efforts to help prevent further spread.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact your supervisor. As we plan for the fall, we look forward to seeing you on the Forty Acres again as we come back together in supporting our teaching and research mission. Thank you for all you do for the university.

Fall 2021 Planning Updates

Protect Texas Together

This communication is from Leadership – Official.

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