



Colleagues,

Please see the Key Points below that correspond with the email sent to all faculty and staff earlier today from President Hartzell.

You can also download a PDF of the Key Points [here](#).

Please discuss this important information with your employees at your earliest convenience.

### Supervisor Key Points



Below are key points for supervisors about the campus operations update.

### Concerns

- We hear and understand the concerns many of you have shared about community spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. We assure you that we are listening to all perspectives and consider all concerns seriously.
- We continue to work closely with our public health experts and together created the following plan for campus operations beginning September 20, 2021.

### In-Person Instruction

- Instructors currently implementing temporary modality changes or who adopted a reduced-density approach for in-person classes should begin transitioning to full density/in-person instruction

beginning September 20 with the goal of resuming previously assigned teaching modalities no later than October 4.

- This allows time to implement additional testing capacity described below and give instructors flexibility in transition.
- This transitions does not include instructors who have already received an ADA accommodation or an alternative teaching modality arrangement (accounting for immunocompromised household members) for the entire fall semester.

### Flexible Work Arrangements for Staff

- Last month we extended the return to campus to September 20.
- Beginning September 20, the university will begin to transition more staff back to campus through approved flexible work arrangements with the goal to have an increased presence by October 4.
- Approved flexible work arrangements may vary by unit. Staff members can expect to receive direction from their deans and vice presidents soon with specific guidance for their unit.
- Please make sure you have discussed in detail your plans for each member of your unit and each team member has completed a [UT Flexible Work Arrangement Form](#).
- It is important that every employee's situation is carefully considered and discussed with their immediate supervisor. Please refer to [HR's FWA Page](#) for more information.

### Classroom Notification & Contact Tracing

- To assist with the confusion related to classroom notifications and contact tracing and to expediate communication about positive cases, University Health Services recently adjusted its notification processes.
- Instructors and students will be quickly informed of possible exposure to COVID-19 for students who tested positive on campus or self-reported their positive test results.

- Learn more about [notifications of exposure](#) and self-reporting.
- Contact tracers will continue to call close contacts of an individual with a confirmed positive.
  - Instructors can assist this process by either uploading seating charts for their classes or encouraging students to submit their seating locations in all classrooms using a new feature in the [Protect Texas Together](#) mobile app.
  - Instructors who wish to use the app locator should encourage students to [download or update the app](#) to access these features.

### Increased Testing Capacity

- At-home COVID-19 test kits will be available soon for
  - Instructors teaching in person (faculty members, teaching assistants, and assistant instructors)
  - Student-facing staff
  - Other staff members who are not able to socially distance while working on campus
- An outside vendor has been secured to expand rapid antigen testing capabilities significantly on campus.
- Testing will be available to all students, faculty and staff at pop-up clinics across campus, and appointments will not be necessary.
- Details about the test sites coming soon.
- University Health Services will continue to offer PCR and rapid antigen tests on campus through our [Proactive Community Testing program](#).

### Next Steps

Based on our health experts' analysis of the testing and contact tracing data, we believe that the risk of spread on campus is low.

Rest assured we continue to monitor conditions closely.

Vaccination remains the best method of protection against illness for you and others.

The university will begin sending a new weekly email — starting later this week — that includes the latest COVID-19 data and results of our testing, contact tracing and incentive programs.

Supervisors can help by continuing to

- wear masks
- get vaccinated
- get boosters if and when recommended
- routine testing
- keep line of communication open with your employees

Thank you for all you do to support the work of our university.

Hook 'em!

Cindy Posey

Director of Internal Communications

University Communications

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