



SPRING 2021 COVID-19 Testing Protocols and FAQ

PRE-SEMESTER TESTING

All On-Campus Employees and Students

Who: Any person who will be on campus during the Spring 2021 Semester, including anyone taking at least one on-ground and/or hybrid class, on campus, working on campus, or using services on campus including, but not limited to, the Library, Kunath Fitness Center, or Dining Commons).

What: If you have had a **positive** COVID-19 test result within the 90 days before arriving on campus for the spring semester, provide (only) that test documentation or medical documentation confirming a COVID diagnosis.

- Students refer to utica.edu/student-covid-survey
- Faculty and staff refer to utica.edu/fs-covid-survey

Students

If you have NOT tested positive in the preceding 90 days, you must test prior to returning to Utica College, as you did in the fall. Provide a copy of that negative COVID-19 test result (as soon as you get it) by uploading it to the [Utica College Student Health Portal](#). PCR test results are preferred; rapid antigen or rapid molecular test results are accepted. Testing is available across the country through pharmacies and other community locations; you also can check with your local health care provider or your local or state health department for testing opportunities near your home. In New York state, call (888) 364-3065 or use the state's online [COVID assessment tool](#) to be guided to a testing appointment near you. Be advised that you will be asked about symptoms, but regardless of your answers free testing is offered at state-run test sites for all New York residents.

Submitting Pre-Semester Test Documentation

Be sure your test result documentation (which can be a screenshot or photograph) includes your name, date of birth, and test date.

Upload the test result to the UC COVID Testing Data Survey and your personal [Utica College Student Health Portal](#), using the "Upload" option (which provides instructions).

Students who fail to provide a test result will not be permitted to access campus, and your Utica College ID card will be deactivated until testing documentation is received.

Out-of-State Students

If you live outside New York and beyond its neighboring states (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont), [New York State's Travel Advisory](#) requires a two-test sequence on a certain timeline, with a three-day quarantine between tests. Specifically:

- Complete the state's online [Traveler Health Form](#).
- New York state requires you to be tested **within three days before leaving home for New York state**, with your result available upon arrival.
- That test meets Utica College's pre-semester testing requirement. Be sure your test result documentation (which can be a screenshot or photograph) includes your name, date of birth, and test date. Upload it to [Utica College Student Health Portal](#) using the new "Upload" option (in the upper right), which provides instructions.
- If the test is positive, contact your county health department, and plan to isolate in your home state.
- If the test is negative, upon arrival in New York state, you will be required to quarantine for three days with your belongings. For residential students, Burrstone House will be available if your on-campus residence does not qualify as proper quarantine space.
- On day 4 of your quarantine, the state requires another COVID test. Utica College will offer "day 4" testing on campus from January 28 through January 31. (If you are tested elsewhere, also provide documentation to UC of your day 4 test result.)

Timeline example for starting spring semester classes on February 1:

- Plan to get tested January 22 or 23 (so that's your day 1) near home, then provide your negative test result via [Utica College Student Health Portal](#) as soon as you receive your result.
- Plan to arrive in New York state no later than January 25 or 26.
- If you are a residential student, coordinate with SLCE to secure quarantine space in Burrstone House. Commuter students should line up a safe, **off-campus** living space in

New York state to quarantine (such as a hotel near Utica College) for three days.

- In this example, you would schedule your quarantine day-4 follow-up test appointment through the [Utica College Student Health Portal](#) for January 29 or January 30 (whichever is your day 4) at UC, available between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. That on-campus COVID-19 rapid test provides results in about 15 minutes. Upon receipt of a negative result, you will be permitted to move back into your residence hall.
- Resident Assistants (RAs) or other students approved to return earlier can have follow-up testing four days after the date of their earlier return.

SURVEILLANCE TESTING

Surveillance testing (for all Utica College students, faculty, and staff) will continue to be a weekly requirement of the campus community throughout the spring 2021 semester.

Off-Campus/Commuter Students

- Off-campus/commuter students are required to secure a COVID-19 test and upload results to the COVID Test Data Survey as well as the [Utica College Student Health Portal](#) prior to returning to campus. Following this, off-campus/commuter students are required to begin pooled testing on January 25, January 26, or January 27. Pooled testing will also be available January 18-19 for those who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity.
- Mandatory weekly pooled saliva testing will continue in Strebel Student Center at the following times:
 - Monday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Residential Students

- Residential students are required to secure a COVID-19 test and upload results to the COVID Test Data Survey as well as the [Utica College Student Health Portal](#) prior to returning to campus.
- Upon returning to campus (January 28-31), all residential students will be rapid tested in Strebel Student Center. Once a negative test is identified, students will be permitted to move into their residence hall.
- Students who have tested positive in the preceding 90 days must provide documented proof of the positive diagnosis with the date of the positive test. This will exempt the student from testing for the remainder of the 90-day time period.
- Mandatory weekly pooled saliva testing will continue in Strebel Student Center at the following times:

- Monday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

FAQ

What if I've received the COVID-19 vaccine?

At this time, vaccination does not change the COVID-19 testing requirements of Utica College or New York state. Vaccination (as available) is encouraged and important to prevent serious illness and death, but there is not yet data about whether it prevents infection or transmission. (The initial research has only confirmed the effectiveness of vaccination to prevent serious illness/death.)

If you have been vaccinated, enter the date(s) of your COVID-19 vaccination and upload the official documentation into your [Utica College Student Health Portal](#) under immunizations – just as you do with other immunizations.

The following article from Penn State University provide [helpful information on how the body responds to the COVID-19 vaccine](#).

If I have COVID-19 symptoms, how long do test results take? What happens in the meantime?

- For symptomatic and/or exposure testing, lab test results typically return within 1-2 days, depending on the volume of tests the SUNY lab is processing at the time you are tested.
- While you are awaiting results (when testing is due to direct exposure) you should prepare to quarantine in a designated quarantine space.
- Students who have symptoms, but do not have a known exposure, should prepare to go into precautionary quarantine in the Burrstone House or off-campus home, and schedule a test. While in quarantine, you will be monitored and supported by the Student Health and Counseling Center and the Office of Student Living and Campus Engagement (SLCE). You will be offered remote access to your classwork if you feel well enough to participate in online learning. If you are too sick to participate, you should speak with a medical provider to discuss how your symptoms are impacting your ability to attend class, and a medical excuse may be provided, depending on your symptoms.
- You will be cleared from quarantine by the Oneida County Health Department. Utica College, as mandated, alerts the state and local Health Departments of positive test results for COVID-19.

If I have symptoms and get tested, how do I get my test results?

- If you are tested at Utica College, test results will be delivered by phone and/or e-mail, with instructions on next steps.
- If you are tested elsewhere, your testing site will call or text you with your results, and/or offer you access to an online lab reporting site where you can view your results.

Do I have to pay for a COVID-19 test?

- If you are tested as part of Utica College's COVID-19 surveillance, you will not be charged for a test.
- You MUST update and provide current insurance provider information in your SUNY-COVID-TEST.com portal. All subsequent "reflex" testing of positive pools is covered by your insurance company, which is then reimbursed by the CARES Act.
- If you go to a test site administered by New York state, there is never a charge for your test. If you go to a test site operated by local governments, private companies (including pharmacies and medical practices), or not-for-profit organizations, ask the testing site and your insurer in advance of being tested whether you will be responsible for any fees.
- If you have symptoms and/or were exposed to COVID-19, tests are covered by most health insurers. If you are unsure of coverage, please contact your health care insurer directly to see if testing is covered.
- The Student Health and Counseling Center will make a clinical determination to guide you on testing.

If I have symptoms, do I still need a COVID test if I've had antibody testing that showed I have antibodies?

At this time, antibody testing does not guarantee immunity to COVID-19, meaning it is possible for you to be re-infected. If you've had a positive antibody test and develop symptoms of COVID-19 and/or are exposed to someone who tests positive, you should follow the steps above for "if you are experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#), or if you receive a 'Stop Sign' result on your daily UC COVID-19 screening."

What actions should I take and what should I expect if I have a positive COVID-19 test?

- Stay at home or at your designated isolation location except to seek medical care. Take infection control measures to prevent the spread of the virus to others. See [CDC isolation guidance](#).
- Utica College staff or a representative of the Oneida County Health Department will contact you with information on isolation and infection control, what to do if your symptoms worsen, and to ask for a list of those in close contact during the exposure time.
- The [COVID-19 Process Flowchart](#) shows how students, the Oneida County Health Department, and the College are involved in contact tracing, monitoring, and communicating.