



COVID-19 Testing Strategy Summary, Spring 2021

Introduction

Cal U will be implementing a COVID-19 testing plan for the Spring 2021 semester. This plan will be part of the University's overall pandemic response plan.

Goal

The ultimate goal of this plan is to assist with the reduction of virus spread in our campus community. This will be accomplished by implementing a tiered approach to testing as recommended by the [PA Department of Health](#) and the [CDC](#). The four tiers of testing that will be offered by the University are:

- Symptomatic (students only)
- Exposure (students only)
- Entry
- Surveillance

The University has set a goal of testing 1,200 campus members before the start of the semester. We also plan to test up to 650 campus members each week during the semester.

Procedures

Symptomatic testing – Testing of symptomatic students will be performed by the Health Center in Carter Hall. An individual showing symptoms of COVID-19 will receive a BinaxNOW™ rapid test. This test provides rapid results that allow the University to respond quickly if results are positive. Per recommendations for rapid tests, a symptomatic student with a negative test result will need to take a PCR test to confirm that symptoms are not associated with COVID-19.

Employees experiencing symptoms should not come to campus. Symptomatic employees should contact their healthcare provider for further instructions.

Exposure testing – Students who experienced an on-campus exposure and continue to be symptom-free should self-quarantine and contact the Health Center to schedule a BinaxNOW™ rapid test. This test should not be given until 5-7 days after the exposure. A negative test result will allow the student to exit quarantine after seven (7) days rather than waiting 10 days as required by CDC guidelines without a negative test.

Employees who are exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider for further instructions.

Entry testing – Before the start of the spring semester, the University will test all student-athletes and all students who will be living in on-campus residence halls. This testing is mandatory.

Voluntary entry testing also will be available for employees and commuter students.

Asymptomatic surveillance testing – Testing of student-athletes and employees working in athletics will be performed weekly, based on NCAA requirements. Surveillance testing also will be required for students living in residence halls. The goal is to test 25% of residence hall students every week.

Testing for employees and commuter students will be offered on a voluntary basis.

How to sign up for testing

Testing will be performed by Virus Geeks, our campus testing partner. Campus members must set up a Virus Geeks account using their campus (*calu.edu*) email address in order to receive free COVID-19 testing on campus.

As part of the signup process, each participant will be asked to provide all information required by the CDC. Participants also will be asked to provide their insurance information (if they have health insurance). The University will cover the cost of any testing not covered by the participant's insurance plan.

All student-athletes, athletics employees and students living in on-campus residence halls are required to register for testing. Other campus members are not required to register, but registration is required if they wish to participate in any part of the testing program.

How to get tested

Symptomatic testing will be available for students through the Health Center in Carter Hall. Because Health Center staff will not be seeing walk-in patients this spring, students who experience symptoms should schedule a COVID-19 test by calling the Health Center at 724-938-4232. Health Center staff will provide further instructions when students call to schedule the test. Every student who comes to the Health Center for testing must register with Virus Geeks.

Exposure testing also will be available for students through the Health Center. If a symptom-free student is in quarantine because of exposure to the virus, a test can be provided 5-7 days after the exposure occurred. A negative test result will allow the student to end the quarantine after seven days, rather than waiting the 10 days required without a negative test.

Exposure testing will be available Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. An appointment is required, since the Health Center will not be taking walk-ins during the spring semester.

Entry testing will be performed before the start of the semester by our testing vendor, Virus Geeks, on the mezzanine level of the Convocation Center. The testing center will be open January 21, 22 and 23 (move-in week) to test all student-athletes and students living in on-campus residence halls. Entry testing for resident students will end at 4 p.m. January 23.

Voluntary entrance testing for commuter students and students living in off-campus housing will be available at the testing site from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. January 21 and from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. January 23. A Virus Geeks account is required; no appointment is needed.

Asymptomatic surveillance testing will be performed for student-athletes and athletics staff every Tuesday during the spring semester. This testing will be monitored by the Athletic Director.

Surveillance testing for all other students will be performed on Wednesdays and Fridays from 7 a.m.–1 p.m. on the Mezzanine Level of the Convocation Center. Students must set up a Virus Geeks account if they wish to be tested no appointment is required,.

Employees who are symptom-free will have two testing options. Regardless of which option the employee chooses, registration with Virus Geeks will be required.

Option 1: Beginning January 27, testing for employees will take place on the mezzanine level of the Convocation Center. The testing site is open to employees from **7 a.m.-1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays**. Testing will be provided on a walk-in basis only.

Option 2: Beginning February 1, employees may pick up a self-administered sample-collection kit between noon and 3 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays at the Multipurpose Room in Carter Hall. Samples can be returned to the testing site at the Convocation Center during its hours of operation, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. **The test sample must be returned to the Virus Geeks testing station within 12 hours of being taken.** Employees who are unable to drop off the sample during Virus Geeks' operating hours may make an appointment by calling either the EHS Office or the Health Center; drop-off times are limited to ensure that samples remain viable until they reach the testing lab.

Sample-collection kits will be available starting February 1 for employees who wish to participant in entry testing.

Test results

All participants will receive their test results within 72 hours of providing the test sample. Results will be sent to the participant via email or text message.

All test results will be sent to the Health Center as required by the testing contract. The Health Center will notify the campus COVID Communications Team about all positive tests results. The communications team then will reach out to each individual with a positive test result in an attempt to determine if any other campus community members may have been exposed.

Student-athletes who test positive will follow the policy of the Athletics Department to ensure that all NCAA guidelines are followed. All other students will follow the instructions provided by the Health Center.

Employees who test positive will follow the [campus exposure policy](#) and the instructions provided by the Office of Human Resources.

Testing statistics ONLY will be reported to the Office of Communications and Marketing, which maintains the [COVID-19 dashboard](#) on the University website. No personally identifying information will be reported on the website.