University of Maryland
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

March 20, 2021

Spring Testing & FAQs

UMCES continues to be committed to protecting our employees and students, as well as the communities in which we all reside. As the next step in reducing the spread of COVID-19, the University System or Maryland (USM) has asked all of its institutions to significantly increase the level and amount of testing taking place in the spring semester.

As a result, UMCES has developed a new **Spring Testing Plan.** Testing can help people determine if they are infected—whether they have symptoms or not—and whether they are at risk of spreading the infection to others. Taking measure such as these are essential to help prevent the spread of COVID and to get us safely back to work and school.

Employees who come to campus on a regular basis for work **must take a COVID test and report the results monthly**. Your first test should be obtained before March 1 and regularly each month through May. **Testing is not necessary if fully vaccinated + 2 weeks and proof of vaccination has been provided to hr@umces.edu.**

Researchers, staff, and graduate students who come to campus on a regular basis—more than one time per week and/or more than 4 hours in any given day—need to be tested. (Note: The Appalachian Laboratory will be following the Frostburg State University spring semester testing plan.) Testing results must be reported each month to **hr@umces.edu** and will be kept in confidence.

Permission to be on campus is still required by your Unit Director and daily health monitoring will still be required. Those who work from home or come to campus occasionally (less than one time per week and less than 4 hours that day) are not required to be tested.

If you're going to be in close contact with a colleague on campus, be particularly mindful of wearing a high-quality **mask**, keeping a safe distance, monitoring your symptoms, and washing your hands.

We continue to follow the **State's Travel Advisory** for professional or personal travel out of the region. This does not apply to travel from adjacent states: Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

FAQs

Where can I get tested?
Individual campus units will provide guidance on testing within their community. For a list of local testing sites, click **HERE**.

When should I get tested?
Your baseline test for the spring semester should be obtained before March 1 and then regularly each month until further notice.

What if I've been vaccinated?
Testing is not required if you have been fully vaccinated + 2 weeks and proof of vaccination has been provided to **hr@umces.edu.**

Does it matter what kind of test I get?
No, any test offered by a testing facility is acceptable.

Will you share my results with anyone?
Results must be reported to hr@umces.edu, and they will be kept in confidence by UMCES Human Resources according to HIPA regulations.

I have previously tested positive for COVID-19, should I be tested again?
Yes, employees are required to provide a monthly test in order to be on campus.

I've already had COVID. Aren't I immune? Do I still need to get tested?
According to the CDC, we do not yet know how much protection (immunity) antibodies to the virus might provide against getting infected again. Therefore, testing is required unless it is not recommended by a health professional.

What if I am charged for a test?
UMCES recognizes that different sites charge different amounts that depend on the circumstances of the test and the insurance coverage you carry. UMCES is committed to fully reimbursing staff for costs of meeting the testing requirement in a timely fashion.

What if I am denied a test at a testing site based on employer requirements?
UMCES encourages you to be up front and honest about why you are requesting a test. If you are denied a test, please seek alternative testing sites or consult your home laboratory who may be able to advise of sites that will accept employer-mandated testing as a reason for testing.

What should I do if I test positive?
If your test result is positive, do not come to campus. Notify your supervisor. You should contact your healthcare provider, who will provide care guidance. You must stay away from campus at least 14 days or until you receive medical clearance.

Do I need to be tested for COVID-19 if I come to campus for a very short time?
Researchers, staff, and graduate students who come to campus for occasional periods, defined as less than one time per week and less than 4 hours that day, do not need to be tested. However, they must obtain permission from their unit director to come to campus and should follow safety guidelines established by that location.

What if my work situation changes and I need to work on campus?
If a faculty or staff member's work situation changes and work on campus is required, they must get tested for COVID-19 and submit confirmation of a negative test result that was taken within 14 calendar days prior to their return. They must also complete daily symptom monitoring, and comply with campus protocols.

What if I've had close contact with someone who is positive?
People who have had **close contact** (within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone with confirmed COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after your last contact and monitor your health. Watch for fever (100.4∘F), cough, shortness of breath, or **other symptoms** of COVID-19. If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are **at higher risk** for getting very sick from COVID-19. See the CDC's website on **When to Quarantine** for further guidance.

Is monthly testing mandatory?
Those who are not in compliance with the monthly testing protocol are not cleared to come to campus. Testing is not necessary if fully vaccinated + 2 weeks and proof of vaccination has been provided to **hr@umces.edu**.