

Dear Trailblazers.

Welcome back to campus! I hope that you were able to have a relaxing, enjoyable and safe holiday.

As we are all aware, the number of cases of COVID-19 and the variant cases of COVID-19 in the state of Georgia continue to grow and present a severe threat to public health in Georgia. The vast majority of Georgians are complying with public health recommendations and guidance for the isolation of persons with symptoms of COVID-19. Because the threat of spreading the virus continues, we ask that you stay mindful of your surroundings. Wear a mask when possible, social distance and wash your hands.

The following new protocols recommended by the Centers for Disease Control should be implemented for Isolation and Quarantine to slow and contain the transmission of COVID-19:

Isolation: If you test positive for COVID-19, everyone (regardless of vaccination status) must:

- Isolate at home for 5 days from the date symptoms first appeared or, if asymptomatic, the date of the positive test. Stay away from others in the household as much as possible during isolation.
- After 5 days, if you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving and you have not had fever for more than 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, you may end isolation. If symptoms are not improving or fever has not resolved, you should continue isolating until these criteria are met.
- After ending isolation, you should continue to wear a mask around others for 5 days.

Quarantine: If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and you are:

- Boosted, or have become fully vaccinated within the last 5 months (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or within the last 2 months (J&J vaccine):
 - You do not need to guarantine at home.
 - You should wear a mask around others for 10 days.
 - If possible, get tested on day 5.
 - If you develop symptoms, get tested and isolate at home until test results are received, then proceed in accordance with the test results.
- Unvaccinated, or became fully vaccinated more than 6 months ago (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or more than 2 months ago (J&J vaccine) and have not received a booster:
 - You must quarantine at home for 5 days. After that, continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
 - If possible, get tested on day 5.
 - If you develop symptoms, get tested and isolate at home until test results are received, then proceed in accordance with the test results.

All University System of Georgia (USG) students can still get vaccinated at any of 15 campuses in Georgia, regardless of which institution you attend. To schedule an appointment, please visit www.usg.edu/vaccination to locate the USG vaccination site nearest you.

In addition to these 15 USG campus vaccination sites, students, faculty & staff may also locate additional community vaccination and testing sites through the following link: https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine.

Staff members of the Department of Health are available at 866-PUB-HLTH (866-782-4584) to assist and counsel persons concerning their illness or exposure to COVID-19.

Thank you,

The Office of Development & External Affairs