

COVID-19 Health Check and Testing Protocols

These requirements will take effect **the week of January 17, 2021**, in conjunction with the scheduled return of some College of Arts and Sciences students to residential life.

The weekly testing requirement is ongoing until the University deems that pandemic conditions no longer require it. Changes to this practice will be informed by County Tier standings and case numbers on our campuses.

Please Note: Given the challenges with obtaining weekly surveillance COVID-19 testing and having the cost covered by insurance for those living and working in Marin County, employees and students on the Marin campus are not required to complete weekly testing. The following policy will apply to the Marin campus should the situation change. Diagnostic testing will still be required for those showing symptoms or for those who have had a known exposure as will use of the UR Ready Daily Health Assessment available within the Redlands app (<https://www.redlands.edu/healthapp/>).

OVERVIEW

The University's COVID-19 prevention policy for **access to campus** by members of our community requires all individuals (students, faculty, and staff) who are approved to work, visit, or reside on-site to complete **daily health checks *and* weekly testing**. As we prepare for the gradual increase of on-site activities, this combined approach is the most effective practice our community can utilize to screen and isolate individuals who exhibit symptoms or positive evidence of COVID-19 infection. Regular health checks and testing¹—*along with other prevention protocols including **physical distancing, the use of face coverings, enhanced cleaning, and good hygiene practices***—will help us minimize the prevalence of COVID-19 in our community.

Our planned “surveillance” testing program (collecting and analyzing samples from selected non-symptomatic individuals) will be aided by our partnership with the [San Bernardino County Department of Public Health](#) (County DPH), which operates a community COVID-19 testing clinic on the University's Redlands campus, making it convenient for those on the Redlands campus to receive testing. The purpose of this testing protocol is to screen for positive COVID-19 cases and aid

¹ **NOTE:** Our testing program is intended for individuals who are **not** experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are experiencing symptoms, please seek medical attention immediately. It is **not** recommended to retest previously positive asymptomatic individuals within 3 months of a positive test. Data currently suggest that some individuals test persistently positive due to residual virus material but are unlikely to be infectious (CDC). For more information, please see: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Testing, Screening, and Outbreak Response for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\)](#).

in identifying potential outbreaks sooner than we would if only relying on a daily health assessment/symptom survey. The health, safety, and privacy of our community is our top priority.

While the University is requiring testing, no protected individual health information will be shared with the University from any testing location. Federal law—the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996](#) (HIPAA)—protects sensitive patient health information from being disclosed without the patient's consent or knowledge. As such, the University must rely on each employee and student to provide notice when they test positive for COVID so we can respond appropriately and provide needed support.

The weekly testing requirement for all faculty, staff, and students will take effect the week of **January 17, 2021**. All students, faculty, and staff who live in residence, work on-site, and/or visit any University campus (no matter how short the duration) will need to get tested weekly by scheduling an appointment at one of the testing sites or visiting a location that accepts walk-ins (visit <https://www.redlands.edu/urready/#hphd> for help identifying testing locations or visit <https://covid19.ca.gov/get-tested/>).

While the weekly testing policy is required for students, faculty, and staff who are approved to work, visit, or reside on-site, we do know that student and employee gatherings and social behaviors off campus pose a real risk to our campus communities. We all have a responsibility to keep our communities safe, and we recommend that, even if you have no plans to be on a campus, you get tested regularly.

HEALTH CHECK AND TESTING OPERATIONS

Administrative Oversight

Authority. The University Vice President for Administration (VPA) has authority from the University President, and hence the Board of Trustees, to direct and oversee administration of COVID-19 pandemic operations. The VPA leads the University's COVID-19 Task Force, which is empowered to establish operational policy, make administrative decisions, and implement approved health and safety measures.

Administration. The COVID-19 Task Force monitors pandemic-related conditions and case levels daily and meets weekly or as needed to consider and effect adaptive responses in our operations. Specific administrative duties include the following and are done in consultation with the COVID-19 Task Force and University President:

1. Health Check and Testing Program. Ongoing oversight of the University's COVID-19 health check and testing programs to ensure all required community members are in compliance.
2. Case Management. Monitoring the University's COVID-19 Case Management System to ensure accurate and timely implementation of protocols for reporting symptoms/exposure, contact tracing, isolation/quarantine, and related support services.
3. Response. Evaluating changing conditions and directing implementation of responses such as redeploying staffing, deploying reserve staffing, deploying contingency resources, closing portions or entire buildings, ordering suspension of in-person lectures, ordering periods of community quarantine, or closure of residences.
4. Communications. Maintaining regular, accurate, up-to-date, transparent, and bi-directional communications with the community via multiple channels of information.

Surveillance Testing Exemptions

You are exempt from the weekly surveillance testing requirement if you:

- Never set foot on a U of R campus and, if residing nearby, never meet in groups of students or employees outside of your household and are asymptomatic.
- Have already had a confirmed case of COVID-19 and are asymptomatic.
- Have evidence of antibodies against the virus and are asymptomatic.
- Have received the full two-course dose of a COVID vaccine.
- Work, live, and/or study on the Marin campus.

Exemption from weekly testing does not free you from following University health and safety protocols. Additionally, if you develop COVID-19 symptoms, you must notify the University via our [reporting form](#), so we can respond appropriately and request you receive a diagnostic test.

Please note, antibody testing is not recommended in place of weekly surveillance testing.

Daily Health Checks (<https://www.redlands.edu/healthapp/>)

Students. Full-time students living in University housing *and* those living off-campus who are accessing campus will be required to complete a daily self-assessment through the Redlands app for access to campus locations as described below. The self-screening asks students to respond to questions about any symptoms they may be experiencing. Each day, *successful completion* of the assessment will affirm a student's permission to access campus locations. When the assessment identifies *potential health risks*, students will be directed to implement appropriate self-care steps such as precautionary quarantine, seeking immediate medical care, and reporting via the [reporting form](#) available online. While proof of completing the daily health assessment is not required to walk outdoors (properly distanced and with face covering) on campus, *a successful assessment will be required to enter some buildings, participate in groups, or receive support services.*

Employees. Faculty and staff are required to complete a daily self-assessment through the Redlands app before working on-site at any of our campuses. The self-screening asks employees to respond to questions about any symptoms they may be experiencing. Each day, *successful completion* of the assessment will affirm an employee's permission to access campus locations. When the assessment identifies *potential health risks*, employees will be directed to implement appropriate self-care steps such as precautionary quarantine, seeking immediate medical care, and reporting via the [reporting form](#) available online. While proof of completing the daily health assessment is not required to walk outdoors on campus, *a successful assessment will be required to enter some buildings, participate in groups, or receive support services.*

Weekly Testing

Student Arrival Testing

Quarantine Upon Arrival (This section is for: residential students returning to the Redlands main campus; for commuting students, or students living off campus, see below). Upon arrival to an on-campus residence hall, returning students *must complete at least a five-day quarantine and then pass a COVID-19 screening test (results expected in up to 3 days) before they are cleared to end their initial (at least a total of 7 days) quarantine period.*

- **Quarantine Period – Residential Students on the Redlands Main Campus.** Students planning to reside on the Redlands campus during the spring 2021 semester should anticipate an initial quarantine period beginning the day they move-in through proof of a negative COVID-19 test administered no sooner than five days after their arrival on campus (for a total of at least 7 days of quarantine).

- **Quarantine Access – Residential Students on the Redlands Main Campus.** During this initial quarantine period, access to each respective residential community will be limited, without exception, to those assigned to their specific community, a practice that will continue for an unspecified period, with any change in practice informed by the County’s Tier standing and case numbers on campus. In compliance with published health standards (i.e., face covering, six feet of physical distance, successful completion of the daily health assessment, etc.) during initial quarantine, students can enter *The Table* to access grab-and-go meal options using their meal plan, which begins January 16.
- **Quarantine Upon Arrival - Commuter Students Returning to Redlands Main Campus or Students Living near Campus in the Surrounding Area.** Upon arrival in Redlands or the surrounding area, students who live off campus and have plans to visit campus are expected to *complete a five-day quarantine and then pass a COVID-19 screening test* using the testing site on campus or an alternate testing site/service, before coming to campus. This requirement is necessary because students, whether in residence or not, inevitably mix with each other.
- **Evidence of Health Status.** To limit the exchange of personal items, students should anticipate using their cell phone and the Redlands Ready tile on the Redlands app to show their University ID, exhibit the successful completion of the daily health assessment, and “swipe” for a meal. Those without a cell phone can access the health assessment online and then request an assessment pass at the Campus COVID Kiosk.

Initial Arrival Testing Procedure – Residential Students on the Redlands Main Campus. The University will provide residential students with instructions and a “take-home,” nasal swab test kit. Student will self-administer the test, generally five days after arrival in Redlands. The test is non-invasive and relatively easy to administer. Should students need assistance, Health Center staff will be available to provide support. Generally, test results will be received by the student within 24 hours of submission of the test sample to our San Bernardino County Health Department partners. If a student tests positive during the initial quarantine period, established campus protocols will go into effect to provide needed support and resources and to contain the virus’s spread. If a negative test is reported, the initial *individual* quarantine requirement expires, thereby allowing that student broader access to the campus community; however, *general access to residential communities will remain restricted*. To accommodate this initial quarantine period—even if we have permission to offer in-person learning as a teaching modality in January 2021—all classes will nevertheless be taught online through January 31.

Initial Arrival Testing Procedure – Commuter Students Returning to Redlands Main Campus or Students Living near Campus in the Surrounding Area. As noted above, the University requires off-campus students to get tested using one of the four options listed below, generally five days after arrival in Redlands.

Student Surveillance Testing

Testing Requirement (This section is for all students on the Redlands campus).

Students who live on campus, or have plans to visit campus, will be expected to test on a weekly basis and report their test date via the Redlands App. Those who do not comply with test protocols will not be permitted to enter classrooms, dining venues, and the like. The frequency of testing is subject to change. Failure to comply with required testing protocols may also be addressed using the Community Standards process and can result in the removal of the privilege to live on or visit campus.

Ongoing Weekly Testing Procedure (This section is for all students on the Redlands campus).

Full-time students living in University housing *and* those living off-campus who are accessing campus will be required to participate in the weekly testing program. *Students must comply with this request, with the only exceptions being for students who are not currently in Redlands or San Anselmo or who are 100% online with their classes and not residing on or near campus for the spring semester.* Students will receive regular reminders to schedule and complete their required weekly testing.

Multiple means of compliance with the testing requirement are acceptable, including:

1. **Testing at the San Bernardino County DPH COVID-19 site on the Redlands campus in University Hall.** This San Bernardino County test site has the capacity to test 1,000 individuals daily. Students may schedule their weekly test via the County DPH website. The on-campus site also accepts walk-ins without appointment.
2. **Testing with an Approved Self-Test.** Students with health concerns or restrictions who require additional accommodations may utilize a self-testing option.
3. **Testing by a Health Care Provider.** Students may arrange to complete their testing requirement with their chosen health care provider.
4. **Testing by any other county site or other approved testing site.** Students can schedule their weekly test at any approved testing location.

No matter the testing location chosen, all students are required to test on a weekly basis (frequency is subject to change) and report their test date via the Redlands App. Visit <https://www.redlands.edu/urready/#hphd> for help identifying testing locations. For a list of all County and State testing sites, visit <https://covid19.ca.gov/get-tested/>.

Employee Surveillance Testing

Ongoing Weekly Testing Requirement. All employees who will be accessing the Redlands campus for any duration are required to complete weekly testing. Employees who are

authorized by their supervisors to work on campus will receive regular reminders to schedule and complete their required weekly testing.

Employees will be required to get tested once weekly (frequency is subject to change) by scheduling their own appointments at any testing location, as above.

No matter the testing location chosen, employees are required to report their test date via the Redlands App. Visit <https://www.redlands.edu/urready/#hphd> for help identifying testing locations. For a list of all County and State testing sites, visit <https://covid19.ca.gov/get-tested/>.

Multiple means of compliance with the testing requirement are acceptable, including:

1. **Testing at the San Bernardino County DPH COVID-19 Site on campus in University Hall.** This San Bernardino County Test Site has the capacity to test 1,00 individuals daily. Employees may schedule their weekly test via the County DPH website. The on-campus site also accepts walk-ins without appointment.
2. **Testing by any other county site or other approved testing site.** Employees can schedule their weekly test at any approved testing location.
3. **Testing with an Approved Self-Test.** Employees with health concerns or restrictions who require additional accommodations may utilize a self-testing option.
4. **Testing by a Health Care Provider.** Employees may arrange to complete their testing requirement with their chosen health care provider.

Testing in the Event of an Outbreak or Cluster (Students and Employees)

In the context of an outbreak among members of our university community, individuals will be considered for and offered testing if they:

- Show signs or [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#) (diagnostic).
- Have a recent known or suspected exposure to a person with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19.
- Have been asked or referred to get testing by their healthcare provider or health department.
- Are part of a cohort for whom testing is recommended.