

## University Health and Safety Protocols for the Fall 2021 Semester

### The Pledge

All students are expected to commit to the following pledge:

**I pledge to protect myself and others** by following the safety guidelines put forth by the University.

**I pledge to protect myself and others** by reporting immediately to the Campus Health COVID-19 Hotline (478-301-7425) if I become symptomatic of COVID-19. I pledge to test if I am unvaccinated for COVID-19 and isolate until cleared by Mercer Medicine if I test positive for the coronavirus.

**I pledge to protect myself and others** by respecting the rights of others and acting responsibly to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Students are expected to monitor and adhere to all policies and guidelines pertaining to COVID-19 found on the [University's COVID-19 website](#).

Violations of these policies may include but are not limited to the following:

- A review of the University's student code of conduct charges
- Removal of a student from a particular University activity
- A registration hold on a student's account
- Deactivation of a student's Bear Card
- Dismissal from class
- A review of the standards of professional conduct penalties (by academic program)

Violations of any policy should be reported immediately to

- the Student Affairs professional in your academic area,
- the Office of Student Affairs (Macon 478-301-2685 or Atlanta 678-547-6823),
- the Director of Regional Academic Center Operations, Mr. Scott Mahone, at 678-547-6551 (for Center students),
- or Mercer Police (Macon 478-301-2970 or Atlanta 678-547-6358).

### What You Need to Know

In order to promote safe campuses, students are required to follow these COVID-19 protocols:

- As COVID-19 conditions evolve, the University will post updates on our [COVID-19 website](#). Also, please continue to check your Mercer email frequently for important messages.
- If you are vaccinated for COVID-19, submit a copy or photo of your vaccine card to [myvaccine@mercer.edu](mailto:myvaccine@mercer.edu). Type your full legal name and MUID in the subject line of the email.
- **If you are [symptomatic of COVID-19](#), whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, you cannot attend in-person classes, labs, orientations, clinical/field experiences, other on-campus activities, or work on campus.** You should immediately call Campus Health's 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline at (478) 301-7425 for a testing appointment or get tested immediately at an off-campus location. If you are asymptomatic and would like to get tested, go to [go.mercer.edu/covidappt](http://go.mercer.edu/covidappt) to schedule an appointment at the Macon or Atlanta Campus Health Center.
- Testing locations:
  - Macon – Campus Health Center, Drake Field House, Macon Campus
  - Atlanta – Campus Health Center, Sheffield Building, Atlanta Campus

- Savannah – Memorial University Medical Center, Savannah Campus (Drs. Shelly or Baxter)
  - Columbus – Mercer University School of Medicine, Columbus Campus (Dr. House)
  - Henry and Douglas Counties - Contact the Provost’s Office at [provost@mercer.edu](mailto:provost@mercer.edu) for a list of testing facilities near the Mercer centers.
- **An off-campus test must be a nasal swab PCR test. Mercer Medicine does not accept antigen tests (known as rapid tests) or antibody tests.**

All students must provide off-campus, **positive COVID-19 results** to Campus Health at [mytestreport@mercer.edu](mailto:mytestreport@mercer.edu). In the subject line of the email, type “Macon Test” (for Macon, Savannah, and Columbus students) or type “Atlanta Test” (for Atlanta, Henry, and Douglas students). Be sure to include your full legal name and MUID in the body of the email.

- If you have a health or other disability-related reason that would warrant a reasonable accommodation with respect to COVID-19 testing, please contact the Office of the Provost at [provost@mercer.edu](mailto:provost@mercer.edu) or 478-301-2110.
- The University has implemented mandatory surveillance testing for unvaccinated students. Students may be selected for surveillance testing multiple times during the semester. You must participate in surveillance testing in order to attend classes, labs, or any campus activity.

Exceptions to surveillance testing include

- students who are fully vaccinated,
  - students who are not on campus for any reason because they are enrolled in off-campus experiences or totally online programs/courses,
  - students with University-approved accommodations who are learning remotely from home, and
  - students who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days.
- If you test at the Campus Health Center and are positive, a Campus Health staff member will call you from a Mercer phone number with the positive results. With negative results, you will receive an email in your Mercer email account.
  - Students do not submit COVID-19 results directly to faculty, the Dean’s Office, or Student Affairs for COVID-related, excused absences. All COVID-related absences must be processed through Campus Health and the Office of the Provost. Faculty are notified of a student’s COVID-related, excused absence(s).
  - Faculty are required to provide academic accommodations to students who are in isolation after either testing positive at the Campus Health Center or submitting off-campus, positive test results to Campus Health at [mytestreport@mercer.edu](mailto:mytestreport@mercer.edu). Also, if a symptomatic student has been tested and is awaiting results, the student must isolate and be provided academic accommodations during this brief isolation period.
  - You must be cleared from isolation by Campus Health/Mercer Medicine before you can return to campus.