

University Health and Safety Protocols for the Spring 2022 Semester

Office of the Provost 478-301-2110

Campus Health's 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline 478-301-7425

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 for COVID-19 as directed by the University 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.
- Each faculty member has the authority to decide if masks are required during class meetings and advising.
- If you are vaccinated for COVID-19, submit a copy or photo of your vaccine card to 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 to schedule an appointment at the Macon or Atlanta Campus Health Center.

There have been recent changes to insurance coverage for COVID-19 testing. As a result, Mercer Medicine will bill your insurance company for COVID-19 testing if you are symptomatic or have been exposed recently to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. If you are tested for other reasons, you will be required to pay \$90 at the time of testing.

- 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@mercerv.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@mercerv.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@mercerv.edu or 478-301-2110.
- As you remember, the University discontinued mandatory surveillance testing during the fall semester. If mandatory surveillance testing is reinstated, you will be informed of the requirement via your Mercer email and the University's COVID-19 website. The University will cover the cost of surveillance testing.
- 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 then 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@mercerv.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.