

July 28, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated their [masking recommendations for fully vaccinated people](#) in response to the rapid spread of the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus. The University is also aware of the rising number of COVID-19 cases and the increased transmission rate in our area, both of which we are watching closely. We are carefully evaluating measures we might put into place and how those might be implemented in practice on campus. It will take us a couple of days to work through our response to these factors, and we ask for your patience.

The purpose of this email is to communicate **two other very important and timely elements** about the approaching semester. Please read them carefully:

1. **Beginning July 30, the University will discontinue COVID-19 test services for employees, except in cases where a test has been ordered by an employee's primary care physician.** (Existing testing appointments for employees without a doctor's order will still be honored.) Employees with symptoms should seek the care of a doctor and make use of the numerous local testing resources to ensure their ongoing health and safety. If you are unable to be vaccinated and would like to participate in regular screening testing, please contact [Human Resources](#).
2. **If you are symptomatic or concerned enough to be tested, please do not report to work.** Likewise, if you get tested for COVID-19 at a local provider (CVS, Walgreens, etc.), do not return to work until you have received a negative result. Your safety is vital and so is the health of your colleagues who may become ill as a result of an exposure.

As we continue to monitor conditions, remember that this year we have the advantage of 18 months of pandemic experience and the ability to quickly make any changes necessary as the situation continues to evolve.

Thank you for being diligent, resilient, and responsible. The University strongly recommends that students and employees get vaccinated and then upload their verification to [vaccine.sewanee.edu](http://vaccine.sewanee.edu).

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Sincerely,

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