



A Message about Safety and Health on UAH's Campus for Fall 2020

Dear Students,

The University of Alabama in Huntsville is concerned about the safety and health of our students, faculty, and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. President Dawson, in coordination with the University of Alabama System led by Chancellor St. John and the faculty and staff of the UAH community, has developed a plan to create a high-quality educational experience for you, while making safety and health a priority.

Because the infectious nature of the disease poses a significant threat to all of us, the University of Alabama System Health and Safety Task Force developed health and safety principles for UAH and the other UA System campuses. Accordingly, UAH developed **UAH Interim Policy 02.01.71, *Safety and Health Requirements for Presence on UAH's Campus during the COVID-19 Pandemic*** to establish the health and safety requirements for us on our campus. It is incumbent upon all of us to adhere strictly to all safety and health requirements delineated in the policy to safeguard, as much as possible, the health and safety of all students, faculty, and staff on UAH's campus.

The requirements for students who are returning to UAH's campus for fall semester 2020 are outlined below and given more fully in the attached interim policy, **02.01.71 *Safety and Health Requirements for Presence on UAH's Campus during the COVID-19 Pandemic***.

It is in each of our best interests for us to comply with the requirements given in this policy. By our actions, we show respect and concern for each other by abiding without

fail by the safety and health requirements. Only through our compliance can we protect each other and ourselves from the spread of COVID-19 on our campus.

Because of the serious health and safety consequences of noncompliance, failure to comply with any the following requirements may result in progressive discipline and sanctions for students and employees. The Division of Student Affairs will communicate the specifics of the student discipline for noncompliance to you.

The information outlined below are key requirements. Please read the attached UAH Interim Policy 02.01.71, *Safety and Health Requirements for Presence on UAH's Campus during the COVID-19 Pandemic* for complete information.

Re-Entry and Post Re-Entry Requirements.

- 1. Training:** All faculty, students, and staff must participate in an online educational module, which includes information regarding COVID-19, a required quiz, the COVID-19 assessment tool, *UAH Charger Health Check*, and an attestation before coming onto campus. This training is required for all students who come to campus for any reason. **Specific information regarding COVID-19 training has been sent via a separate communication and posted on the Return to Campus website.** <https://www.uah.edu/return-to-campus>
- 2. Re-entry Testing.** Students who are coming to campus for fall 2020 and who have not been regularly on-campus before August 3, 2020, must complete a COVID-19 test before resuming on-campus activities for fall semester 2020. Students who are already on-campus may elect to participate in the re-entry testing for COVID-19. Students who will not be on-campus during fall semester are not required to participate in re-entry testing. **Specific information regarding re-entry testing has been sent to you via a separate communication and posted on the Return to Campus website.** <https://www.uah.edu/return-to-campus>
- 3. UAH Charger Health Check:** All students who are coming to campus must enroll and participate in *UAH Charger Health Check*. Students who are on-campus must continue to report any symptoms and exposure in the *UAH Charger Health Check* every three days throughout the semester. The frequency of reporting may be increased depending upon public health and medical guidance. Compliance with the required entering of *UAH Health Check* data is mandatory and will be monitored.
- 4. Feel well.** Students should feel well before coming to campus or leaving their residence halls. Students must self-assess their health before coming to campus or leaving their residence halls. Students should not come to campus or leave their residence halls if they have a temperature >100.4°F and/or are experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms. Each person needs to self-assess for

temperature and the absence of key CDC recognized symptoms. Key symptoms include fever, dry cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or a new loss of taste or smell.

Students with symptoms should contact the Student Health Clinic. Students who test positive for COVID-19 must follow the directions given to them by Student Health Clinic.

- 5. Face Coverings.** Students must wear a face covering at all times while inside all UAH buildings. **Students are required to wear face coverings during class.** Students living in residence halls need to follow the guidance regarding face coverings in the residence halls given to them by Housing. Face coverings are not required when walking or exercising outside while maintaining an acceptable social distance. Face coverings are required when meeting with others within a confined space, such as an office, conference room, or other space.

Face coverings include disposable or cloth masks and/or cloth face coverings over a person's nose and mouth. Face shields are allowed to be worn by faculty while teaching class and by faculty, staff, and students who are approved in accordance with the *Safety and Health Requirements for Presence on UAH's Campus during the Covid-19 Pandemic Interim Policy 02.01.71*.

Students requesting a reasonable accommodation, including religious accommodation, with respect to this requirement should contact Disabilities Support Services. Contact Kelly Cothran at kelly.cothran@uah.edu 256.824.1997.

- 6. Protective Hygiene.** Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Disinfect common areas before and after use such as door handles/knobs, common workstations, laboratory stations, desks/tables/chairs in classrooms, tables and chairs in classrooms, conference rooms and break rooms, microwaves, other high touch surfaces, etc.

Specific information regarding classroom sanitization and enforcement of facemasks in the classroom will be sent via a separate communication and posted on the Return to Campus website. <https://www.uah.edu/return-to-campus>

7. **Social Distancing.** Students must practice social distancing with a separation of at least six (6) feet from others and conduct themselves in safe and healthy behavior on-campus at all times.

Take the stairs whenever possible, and avoid enclosed spaces such as elevators and small study rooms, where social distancing is not possible.

8. **Do not bring children to campus.** Children may come to campus only if they are going to the Early Learning Center or if they have the written authorization of the Office of Compliance.

9. **Sentinel Testing:** UAH will conduct weekly sentinel testing of four percent (4%) of the campus population to signal trends, identify outbreaks, and monitor for the prevalence of COVID-19 on UAH's campus. Sentinel testing is voluntary for the general campus population. Students who live in residence halls and involved in some student groups and activities will be mandatory. You will be notified if you are required to participate. All students are strongly encouraged to participate for the health and safety of our campus.

10. **Academic and Social Events.** Until further notice, the following restrictions apply to all academic and social events:

- a. **Event Registration:** All academic or social events must be pre-registered with the Office of Academic Affairs or the Office of Student Affairs. Event registrations must be updated following the event to include a comprehensive list of attendees, and maintained for at least 14 days following the event.
- b. **Limitations on Attendance:** Events are limited to 2-hours in duration. The capacity of all social and academic events must comply with all applicable health ordinances in place when the event is registered and hosted. Social event attendance may not exceed 50 people indoors or 100 people outdoors. All academic events hosted by a faculty member or department are subject to the same limitations imposed in a class setting. Event organizers must comply with all campus and System-wide policies for screening event attendees, including the use of the UAH Charger Health Check and its features.
- c. **Off campus Social and Academic Events:** Until further notice, no student organizations may hold off-campus events. This includes parties, swaps, formals, and other social gatherings. This restriction applies regardless of whether the event is organized by the student organization or on its behalf by some of its members or someone acting on their behalf. Academic events hosted off-campus must have special written approval from the Provost.

If you have questions regarding safety and health requirements for our return to campus this fall, please refer to the Return to Campus website <https://www.uah.edu/return-to-campus> or contact your advisor, the Dean of Students, or the Office of the Provost. We are looking forward to seeing you for fall semester.

Christine W. Curtis