

RETURN TO CAMPUS GUIDE

Updated 6.30.20



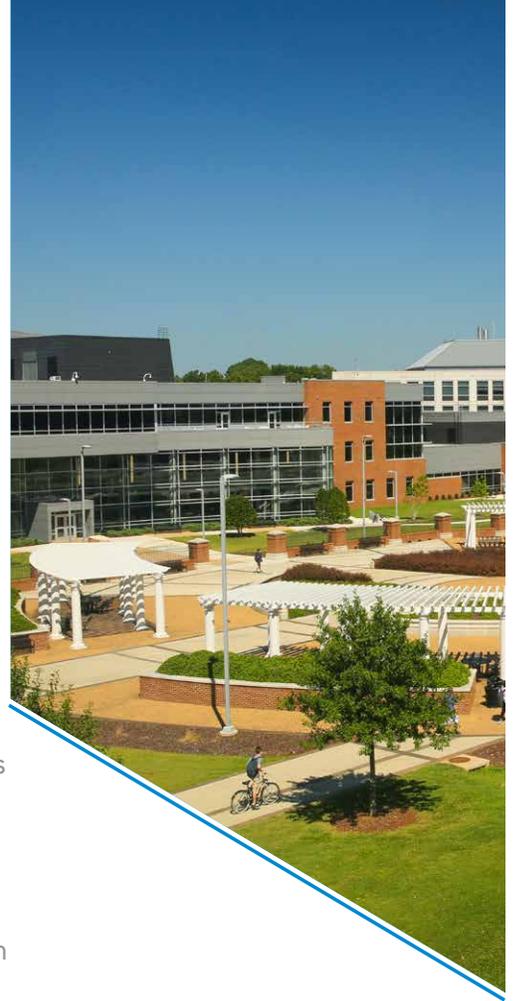
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YOUR SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY

The entire UAH community has worked tirelessly to respond to the COVID pandemic and plan for the short and long-term impacts that will be left in its wake. We are fortunate to have the resources of the University of Alabama System Health and Safety Task Force, Chancellor Finis St. John and the support of the Board of Trustees in this initiative. This plan outlines efforts by our university community, led by the UAH Return to Campus Task Force, to develop a flexible approach to re-open campus, while considering adjustments to be made if conditions improve or worsen. While these safety and health measures are being implemented across our entire campus, the following guidelines will address the unique needs and challenges within our programs, spaces, and campus locations. By committing to a caring culture that starts with our personal behavior and acceptance of responsibility, this plan prioritizes the health and well-being of all our students, faculty, staff, vendors, volunteers, and visitors and provides a roadmap for continuing to provide exceptional educational, research, and engagement programs.



SUMMARY OF UAH PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ UAH will re-open campus for the fall semester.
- ▶ Planning incorporates leadership initiatives from various working groups that include representation from across the entire campus community.
- ▶ Re-opening will respond to federal, state, and local government guidance in place at the time of UAH's reopening and will be guided by health and medical professionals.
- ▶ UAH will focus on the health and well-being of faculty, staff, students, vendors, volunteers, and visitors across all planning.
- ▶ UAH will provide updates to the campus community via a variety of mediums, including the university's website, campus messages, and social media.

Sincerely,

Darren Dawson, President

RETURN TO CAMPUS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLE 1

Protect the health and safety of the faculty, staff, students and visitors/collaborators upon their return to campus, with particular concern for vulnerable populations, and considering emotional and mental health as well as physical health.

PRINCIPLE 2

Follow local, state and national public health authority directives for shelter-at-home, quarantines, physical/social distancing, use of protective gear, density of individuals in enclosed spaces, and other directives.

PRINCIPLE 3

Return to campus to enable UAH to provide a unique value to UAH students, faculty, staff, and surrounding community including access to resources that are critical to research and education, participation in collaborative learning, and activities that stimulate learning, creativity and discovery, and engagement with community stakeholders to advance research, enhance learning, and expand career opportunities for our students.

PRINCIPLE 4

Fulfill the University's academic, research and service mission.

- ▶ Prepare to deliver a high-quality educational experience that realizes the learning objectives, rigor, and standards of UAH, regardless of educational modality.
- ▶ Resume vital research, scholarship, and creative activities integral to UAH culture with appropriate precautions guided by approved public health directives

PRINCIPLE 5

Be flexible and responsive to the changes in circumstances and make accommodations as necessary while being respectful and considerate to all.



PHASED RETURN TO OPERATIONS

The UAH plan utilizes a phased approach in accordance with the parameters of the plan given below. Circumstances may necessitate modifications to this approach as determined by the President, in consultation with the Chancellor and Board of Trustees.

RED	ORANGE	YELLOW: PHASE 1	YELLOW: PHASE 2	YELLOW: PHASE 3	GREEN
Access Severely Limited	Limited Business Operations	Modified Business Operations	Modified Business Operations	Modified Business Operations	Modified Normal Operations
<25% capacity	Up to 25% capacity	25 – 75% capacity	25 – 75% capacity	25 – 75% capacity	75%> capacity
<p>Maintenance and security only</p> <p>No research, athletic or academic activity</p> <p>Face coverings, social distancing, and sanitizing/disinfecting as indicated in the health and safety protocol</p>	<p>Limited business operations with essential services only</p> <p>Remote/online learning</p> <p>Suspension of on-campus events and activities</p> <p>Face coverings, social distancing, and sanitizing/disinfecting as indicated in the health and safety protocol</p> <p>No non-essential travel. All essential travel must be approved through a waiver process</p> <p>Food pick-up only</p>	<p>Continuation of essential services</p> <p>Research activities as operational plans are approved</p> <p>Student clinical experiences with operational plans and restricted personnel approved</p> <p>Remote/online learning</p> <p>Face coverings, social distancing, and sanitizing/disinfecting as indicated in the health and safety protocol</p> <p>No non-essential travel. All essential travel must be approved through a waiver process</p> <p>Recreation center/ gyms open with limited capacity. Social distancing enforced, cleaning supplies readily available for users to clean equipment after use, complemented by enhanced cleaning of equipment and all high-touch surfaces</p> <p>Food pick-up only</p>	<p>Critical administrative, academic, student affairs, and business operations as communicated from university and college leadership based on approved operational plans</p> <p>Research activities as operational plans are approved</p> <p>Limited professional education activities</p> <p>Limited on-campus events and activities, including athletics, maintaining compliance with health and safety protocol</p> <p>Remote/online learning</p> <p>Face coverings, social distancing, and sanitizing/disinfecting as indicated in the health and safety protocol</p> <p>No international non-essential travel. All essential travel must be approved through a waiver process</p> <p>On campus dining with limited occupancy and tables arranged in accordance with social distancing guidelines</p> <p>Child care expanded provided centers can comply with CDC guidance and local ordinances. Parents required to complete Charger Health Check for everyone in their household.</p>	<p>On campus housing open</p> <p>Resumption of on campus learning with hybrid remote/in-person model</p> <p>On-campus events and activities, including athletics, maintaining compliance with health and safety protocol</p> <p>Expanded faculty, administrative, academic, student affairs, and business operations as communicated from the university and college leadership based on approved operational plans</p> <p>Research activities as operational plans are approved</p> <p>Some faculty, staff, and students working remotely</p> <p>Face coverings, social distancing, and sanitizing/disinfecting as indicated in the health and safety protocol</p> <p>All essential travel must be approved through a waiver process.</p> <p>On campus dining with limited occupancy and tables arranged in accordance with social distancing guidelines</p> <p>Resumption of child care operations in compliance with CDC guidance and local ordinances.</p>	<p>Modified normal operations for all faculty, staff and students</p> <p>Face coverings, social distancing, and sanitizing/disinfecting as required in the health and safety protocol based on the advice of the medical experts</p> <p><i>Consistency in guidance across all campuses for expansion is required for re-entry. Decisions to expand or retreat from a defined phase will be evidence-based (i.e., not date or event driven) and will account for dynamics of community transmission. Parameters will be developed and monitored by campus incident command centers as outlined in the UA System Health and Safety protocols. The gradual addition of campus operations in each phase should be based on individual campus's ability to manage the population density within these guidelines.</i></p>

UA SYSTEM CORNERSTONES

UAH is working with UA System Chancellor St. John to implement the UA System Health and Safety Task Force plan to provide overarching principles that are guiding the campuses in their planning processes. The task force and its multiple working groups are coordinating their efforts, tapping into world-class expertise on our campus and within the System, including UAB Medicine, as well as seeking guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Alabama Department of Public Health. Our campus protocols will rest on principles set out by the System Task Force, CDC, and ADPH:

BARRIERS: Face coverings are current best practice and will be part of our plan.

CLEANING: Enhanced cleaning is in place, will continue, and will adjust when necessary.

DISTANCING: Recommendations on social distancing are key elements of our plan.

EDUCATION/TRAINING: A UAH training course has already been rolled out to employees and a student version of the online training module is being completed.

TESTING

- ▶ **INITIAL TESTING FOR RE-ENTRY:** Subject to the availability of adequate testing, all returning students on UA System campuses will be tested for COVID-19 before or immediately following their return to campus. Any student arriving on a UA System campus from a location currently experiencing increased COVID-19 transmission will be tested or re-tested upon arrival. Student health, in conjunction with the infectious disease experts at UAB, will identify the locations with increased transmission of COVID-19. In the event universal testing is not available, UA System campuses will have alternate procedures that, at a minimum, test any student with COVID-19-related symptoms or who is arriving from an area identified as experiencing increased community transmission.
- ▶ **SENTINEL TESTING:** Sentinel testing of faculty, staff, and students is strongly desired to signal trends, identify outbreaks, and monitor the prevalence of COVID-19 on each campus. Sentinel testing would involve conducting COVID-19 tests on a randomized sample of 2.5% of employees and students. Testing will be voluntary for most students.

Students living in on-campus residential housing or participating in university-sponsored extracurricular activities may be required to participate in sentinel testing. A subcommittee has been developed to create a specific process for randomization, notification, testing, and the handling of test results. The implementation of this guideline is dependent on the availability of reliable testing.

SYMPTOM-TRACKING: Faculty, staff, and students will be required to participate in the Charger Health Check portion of the Stay Safe Together™ platform. Charger Health Check is a COVID-19 assessment tool that allows users to report COVID-19 related symptoms and exposure.

EXPOSURE NOTIFICATION: A voluntary, opt-in smartphone tool has been developed for exposure notification. The Stay Safe Together™ Exposure Notification is a partnership of Apple, Google, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). The opt-in resource alerts participants if they have been in close contact with a person who has reported a positive COVID-19 test within the past 14 days.

ISOLATION: UAH has created, and will maintain, appropriate locations for campus residents to self-isolate or quarantine when they have been potentially exposed.

CONTINUOUS PROCESS REVIEW & IMPROVEMENT: As we learn more about COVID-19 and the efficacy of our strategies, our approaches and plan will adjust. Monitoring the effectiveness of our strategies, the health condition of the campus and continuing success of students will inform our adjustments.

EDUCATION IS KEY

Education is key to preventing the spread and impact of COVID-19. Prior to the Fall 2020 semester, our employees and students will be provided with an educational program on the risks and mitigation strategies for COVID-19. In addition to providing educational and training tools, our campus will continue to pursue its primary mission of providing an exceptional educational experience, along with world-class research and service.

TRAINING PRIOR TO RETURN TO CAMPUS

- ▶ Education for UAH employees was rolled out in March. Expanded trainings are in development.
- ▶ Training for students will be in place by mid-summer via an online module.

POSTERS & COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

- ▶ Throughout the outbreak, UAH's Office of Marketing and Communications (OMC) has maintained a COVID-19 website to share essential information, uah.edu/news/coronavirus-precaution. Information specific to re-entry can be found on our return to campus website, uah.edu/return-to-campus.
- ▶ The OMC will also continue to publish and make available posters, PSAs, routine updates to faculty, staff, and students, and other communications.

CLASSROOM & INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- ▶ Increased social distancing in the classroom.
- ▶ All faculty, staff, and students must wear face coverings (masks, face shields, or both) in classrooms, labs, communal office space, on-campus gatherings, or in any campus-setting where social distancing is difficult to maintain.
- ▶ Create remote access to on-campus courses to allow students to access courses fully online if they cannot attend on campus or otherwise prefer not to.
- ▶ Use of hybrid approaches to teaching and material dissemination, providing both face-to-face class experiences and online course content.
- ▶ Enhanced cleaning of classrooms.

RESEARCH STRATEGIES

- ▶ Operational protocols for modified limited research operations are available at uah.edu/ovpr/ovpred-covid.

HELP FOR VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS

CDC ADVICE ON VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have identified broad categories of individuals who are at higher risk for severe COVID illness, including:

- ▶ 65 and older
- ▶ Nursing home / long-term care residence
- ▶ Those with certain underlying conditions that are not well controlled, such as lung and heart conditions, immunocompromised individuals, severely obese, diabetics, and those with kidney and liver diseases.

For the latest, please see cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html

FOR INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS

If you are concerned that you may be at higher risk, UAH has designated individuals to assist with your questions. Please contact:

FOR STUDENTS:

Office of Disability Services
256.824.1997 // dss@uah.edu

FOR FACULTY & STAFF:

Human Resources
256.824.6445 // hr@uah.edu

FOR INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL QUESTIONS

FOR STUDENTS:

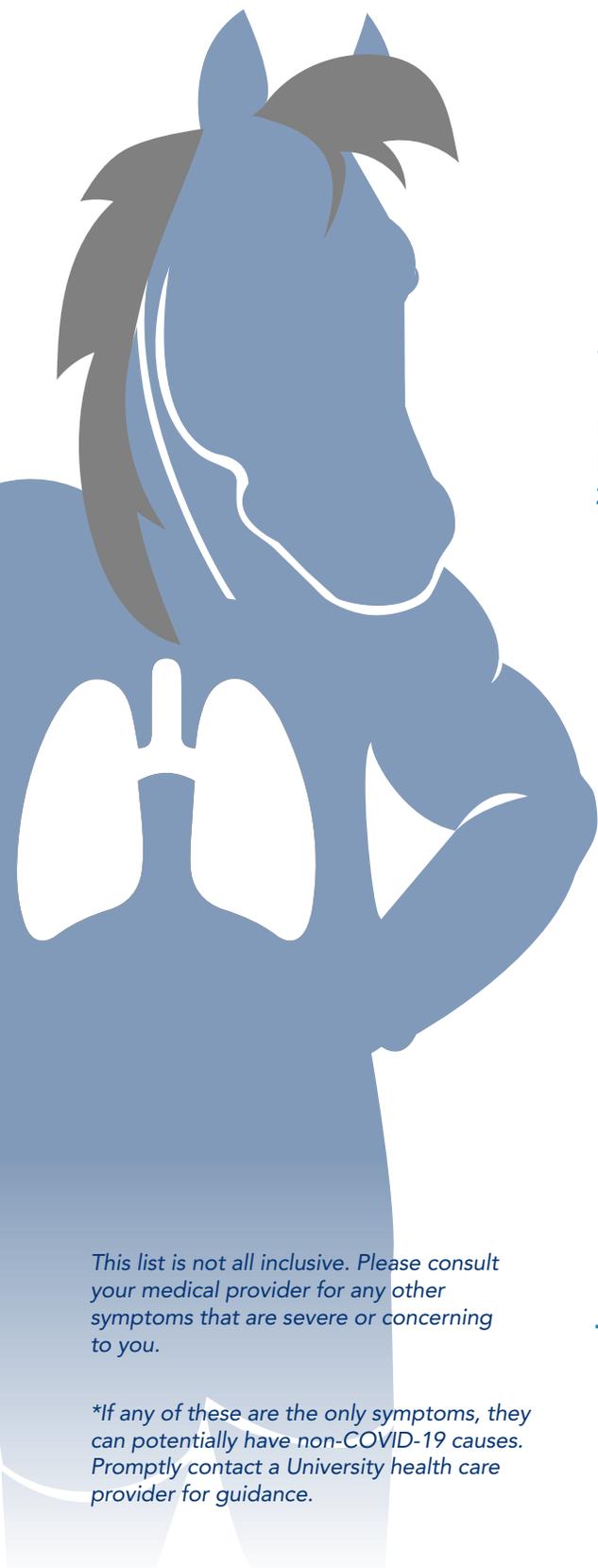
Student Health Center
256.824.6775 // shc@uah.edu

FOR FACULTY & STAFF:

Faculty-Staff Clinic
256.824.2100 // uah.edu/clinic



PERSONAL SAFETY PRACTICES



IF YOU ARE SICK, STAY HOME

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have COVID-19, stay home and self-isolate for 10+ days (or per ADPH/Faculty and Staff Clinic (FSC) instructions).

If you have had close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is under investigation for COVID-19, stay home and quarantine for 14 days after last exposure.

WHO TO CONTACT

EMPLOYEES:

Laurel C. Long, HR
256.824.6545 // longl@uah.edu

STUDENTS:

Dean of Students
256.824.6700 // dos@uah.edu

PRIMARY SYMPTOMS

COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has been identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness globally:

- ▶ Cough
- ▶ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- ▶ Fever
- ▶ Repeated shaking with chills
- ▶ Muscle pain or body aches
- ▶ New loss of taste or smell
- ▶ Unexplained headache*
- ▶ Sore throat*
- ▶ Nausea*
- ▶ Diarrhea*

SEVERE SYMPTOMS

- ▶ Trouble breathing
- ▶ Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- ▶ Bluish lips or face
- ▶ New confusion or inability to arouse

TRANSMISSION

Spread from person to person through sneezing or coughing.

Respiratory droplets containing the virus can remain on surfaces even after the ill person is no longer near.

This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

**If any of these are the only symptoms, they can potentially have non-COVID-19 causes. Promptly contact a University health care provider for guidance.*

PERSONAL SAFETY PRACTICES

PERSONAL PREVENTION PRACTICES

Certain measures are needed to reduce the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19. Cloth masks/face coverings are used to minimize the risks to others near you.



TIPS TO STAY HEALTHY



WASH YOUR HANDS
frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Lather for at least 20 seconds



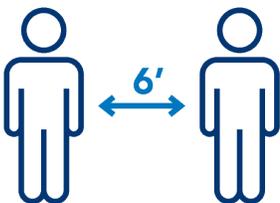
CLEAN & DISINFECT
frequently touched objects and surfaces with isopropyl alcohol



COVER YOUR MOUTH & NOSE
with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES
nose and mouth with unwashed hands



AVOID CLOSE, UNPROTECTED CONTACT
and stay at least 6' from others



STAY HEALTHY
stay hydrated, eat a balanced diet, get rest, avoid stress

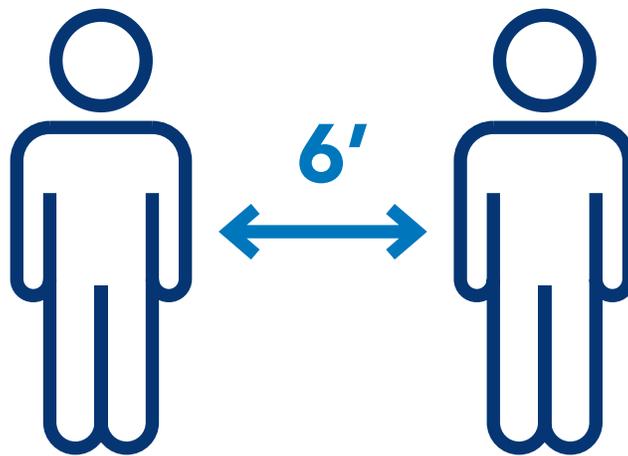
PERSONAL SAFETY PRACTICES

PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING & AVOID CLOSE CONTACT

Social or physical distancing advice includes:

- ▶ Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.
- ▶ Do not gather in groups.
- ▶ Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings.

All members of the campus community must practice social distancing.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

PERSONAL ITEMS

- ▶ Students, faculty, and staff need to keep their personal items (e.g., cellphones, other electronics) and personal work and living spaces clean, especially shared desks, lab equipment, and other shared objects and surfaces. Cleaning products and hand sanitizer will be provided in many locations throughout campus.



SUPERVISOR & STAFFING TIPS

Even after a return to full operations, UAH will encourage employees to work remotely, stagger shifts and functions, maintain social distancing, and use PPE to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Supervisors serve an important role in implementing these efforts.

PHASED STAFFING

- ▶ **Remote Work:** Those who can work remotely to fulfill part or all of their work responsibilities may continue to do so with approval.
- ▶ **Alternating Work Days:** To limit the number of interactions between individuals.
- ▶ **Staggered Reporting/Departing:** Staggering reporting and departure times when possible, to encourage reduced building traffic.

ADDITIONAL OFFICE RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Maintain at least 6 feet distance from co-workers and ensure your employees do the same.
- ▶ Wear a face mask or face covering at all times while in a shared workspace/room.
- ▶ Allow employees to use available leave as needed for symptoms, quarantine, and isolation.
- ▶ Certain activities may require work within 6 feet social distance guidelines. Use appropriate PPE and keep such activities to a minimum.
- ▶ Keep in mind, people can be infected but asymptomatic.

OTHER QUESTIONS

- ▶ Talk with your supervisor, department head, dean, or HR for further guidance.

For additional information, please visit
uah.edu/hr/covid-19-resources

CAMPUS OPERATIONS: PHYSICAL SPACES

UAH committees are finalizing plans to make appropriate modifications to our various physical spaces. Action items to be implemented include:

MODIFIED SURROUNDINGS

- ▶ Sanitation stations and hand sanitizer in more locations.
- ▶ Enhanced cleaning protocols, especially for high-touch surfaces.
- ▶ Preventative equipment, such as plexiglass dividers and covers.
- ▶ Modified layouts of classrooms and communal spaces to provide for required distancing.

HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE

- ▶ Housing and Residence Life will preserve students' residence life in their "home away from home."
- ▶ COVID-19 will require some changes, especially social distancing in common areas, such as building kitchens and laundry, non-UAH visitors will be limited, PPE will be provided for staff, education, training, enhanced cleaning, and staggered move-in.
- ▶ Isolation spaces will be provided for any on-campus students who may need them.

FOOD SERVICES

- ▶ Campus dining will make appropriate adjustments to maintain distancing and provide for the health and safety of students, staff, and faculty.
- ▶ More grab-n-go options at dining locations, including a to-go option at Charger Café.

MODIFIED ACTIONS

- ▶ Gatherings – Virtual meetings and activities will continue to be encouraged.
- ▶ Travel – Will continue to be restricted for employees.

COMMUNAL SPACES & WAITING AREAS

- ▶ Chairs and furniture will be rearranged to allow for social distancing.
- ▶ Procedures are being redesigned to reduce shared objects like pens, forms, magazines, and sign-in sheets.



CAMPUS LIFE & LARGE EVENTS

The UAH experience extends beyond the classroom. Planning is underway for student organizations, and social and large events, with the goal to preserve the student experience, consistent with public health and safety requirements.

STUDENT GROUPS & GREEK LIFE

- ▶ Student Life has developed plans for the fall and will continuously revise them with input from our Student Life professionals and students, with a priority of making events virtual when possible.
- ▶ Student Life will assist student organizations to use and plan for larger physical spaces, allowing for greater social distancing for face-to-face events and meetings.
- ▶ Social events and group activities will be planned to preserve the experience, consistent with health and safety requirements.
- ▶ Student groups will be assisted in their own efforts to educate and train on health promotions, and to maintain required distancing and other safety protocols.

STUDENT SERVICES

- ▶ Critical services, such as Career Services, the Counseling Center, and Student Health Center, will continue, with enhanced remote availability.
- ▶ Academic support services including the Library, Disability Student Services (DSS), Testing Services, and Student Success Center will continue to support students. The Student Success Center will provide enhanced remote options.

LARGE EVENTS/ATHLETICS

- ▶ Athletics is busy working on contingency plans, should health and safety require changes to event schedules, attendee expectations, and/or facility capacity.
- ▶ Appropriate symptom screening will be a standard expectation of entry at many campus events.

RETURN TO CAMPUS WORKING GROUPS

In fulfillment of its responsibilities, the UAH Return to Campus Task Force established the following working groups:

WORK GROUP	PLANS
HEALTH & SAFETY	The University of Alabama System and its individual Universities set a bold target to be the "safest university in America," committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students, faculty and staff. In this unprecedented time, new protocols must be developed, implemented and maintained to support this goal, ensuring campus health and safety is a top priority.
RESEARCH	Protect the health and safety of UAH research workforce and study participants, while increasing research activity using an incremental approach.
ACADEMICS	Protect the health and safety of the UAH community, while providing the unique value of the UAH education through on-campus activities.
STUDENT LIFE	Provide a safe and productive environment for students to not only excel in the classroom, but also continue to participate in meaningful co-curricular events and activities that are an integral part of their holistic educational experience at UAH.
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION	Support each area of the UAH community by assisting in a return to reimagined campus operations that promotes the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and guests by enabling social distancing throughout all areas of the campus.
MEDIA & REPUTATIONAL RISK	Present clear messages that reflect the university's efforts toward developing and implementing a plan for a safe and healthy return to campus for students, faculty, and staff.
ATHLETICS	Provide guidance on issues related to NCAA athletics practice and competition, student-athlete safety, support, and welfare, staff welfare, and facilities.

***Note:** This represents a tentative plan and set of measures aimed at appropriately dealing with campus matters related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Recommendations of the CDC and other authorities will change as the situation evolves, which will warrant modifications. These provisions do not limit the discretion that UAH representatives have to respond in any given situation except as otherwise specifically stated.