

SU Campus COVID-19 Testing and Positivity Rate Update

To the Stevenson Community,

The purpose of this email is to provide important updates on our ongoing efforts to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on our campus. The following information updates our previous testing data as posted September 15.

COVID-19 Testing and Positivity Rate

As of September 28, a total of 1187 resident students have received COVID-19 tests since testing of returning students began on August 17. Since August 17, 53 of those test results came back positive, and 7 showed inconclusive results. As of September 28, the overall campus positivity rate is 4.49%. The positivity rate for Maryland for this same period was 2.59%. Stevenson's positivity rate includes 44 positive test results reported on August 24. Since August 31, there have been a total of 339 conclusive tests administered with one test resulting in a positive.

Report of Positive Cases on Campus

Since the last campus update, three students who live on campus have tested positive for COVID-19. All three of these students were tested at off campus locations. Those three students and several other students who are close contacts are now in isolation or in quarantine. We are providing guidance and support to all impacted students so they can complete their isolation or quarantine periods, continue their classes remotely online, and safely return campus after they have been cleared by our Wellness Center. We are glad to report that none of the students are experiencing serious symptoms and all are recovering.

Several of the impacted students reported using the Garrison Hall Reading Room's study rooms together in a group. As a reminder to all students, these Study Rooms are strictly limited to only one person at time. Being in a small, enclosed room in a group increases the risk for COVID-19 transmission, even when wearing masks and remaining physically distant.

While transmission of COVID-19 from surfaces is considered low risk, as a precautionary measure, the Reading Room was closed and thoroughly cleaned and treated with hospital-grade disinfectants. The Reading Room has reopened for student use, but the study rooms are currently closed. No students should use any small, enclosed rooms together in a group, even with masks on. In addition, students are reminded to follow mask and physical distancing measures at all times.

All students should continue to monitor themselves daily for possible COVID-19 symptoms and use the [Student Symptom Tracker](#) as a helpful, easy-to-use monitoring tool. If you think you are symptomatic or have been exposed to someone who was positive for COVID-19, please contact the SU Wellness Center immediately at 443-352-4200 or wellness@stevenson.edu for assistance.

Watch [Get to Know the Symptoms of COVID-19](#) and visit the Keep Stevenson Safe web page at www.stevenson.edu/safe for more health and hygiene information.

Additional Testing Measures for Campus: Random Surveillance Testing

As announced on September 30, Stevenson will implement random surveillance testing as an additional COVID-19 testing strategy for the campus. This testing program will help us with our ongoing efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our campus community and proactively identify students who have COVID-19 but do not show symptoms.

Details about this testing program, how it will work, and FAQs can be found at [Randomized COVID Testing for Students](#).

We expect the testing to continue as necessary through the 2020-2021 academic year.

Recommended Health and Safety Measures

All students, both commuter and resident, faculty, and staff should remain vigilant about their health and hygiene and follow the practices recommended by the CDC to protect yourself and others from the transmission of COVID-19:

- Wear masks and cover those no
- Practice social distancing
- Do not congregate with others in small enclosed spaces
- Avoid large crowds and gatherings
- Wash and sanitize hands frequently
- Monitor yourself daily for possible symptoms of COVID-19

It is also important to remember that a negative test result does NOT mean you are immune from COVID-19. You must continue to follow the CDC-recommended health and hygiene practices. You can learn more about these practices on our [Keep Stevenson Safe](#) and [Stevenson Social Compact](#) web pages.

Keep Stevenson Safe, Mustangs!

Thank you to all members of our university community who continue to make the health and safety of our campus a priority. The reality of COVID-19 remains as part of all of our lives, on and off campus. We will continue to monitor our community, make adjustments to promote the health and wellness of our campus, and provide you periodic updates on testing results, positivity rates, and our responses to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Antionette J. Marbray
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