

SU Campus COVID-19 Testing and Positivity Rate Update

To the Stevenson Campus 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.

COVID-19 Testing and Positivity Rate

Our plan for testing students returning to our residence halls commenced on August 17. As of September 15, a total of 1054 resident students have received COVID-19 tests. Fifty-three of those test results came back positive, and 7 showed inconclusive results. As of September 15, the overall campus positivity rate is 5.06%. The current positivity rate for Maryland is 3.33%. Our higher rate is a reflection of 44 positive test results on August 24. Since August 31, the start of the semester, there have been a total of 206 conclusive tests administered with one test resulting in a positive.

We are glad to report that none of the students on campus who tested positive required hospitalization. In these cases, the students have completed their isolation protocols and been medically cleared to return to campus.

Recommended Health and Safety Measures

All students, both commuter and resident, faculty, and staff should continue their efforts to follow the health and hygiene measures recommended by the CDC to protect others and ourselves from the transmission of COVID-19. We encourage everyone to maintain these practices and remain vigilant about their health and hygiene. Wear face coverings, practice social distancing, avoid large gatherings, wash and sanitize hands frequently, and monitor yourself daily for possible symptoms of COVID-19. Students who think they are symptomatic should contact the SU Wellness Center at 443-352-4200 or wellness@stevenson.edu for assistance.

As students receive COVID-19 tests as part of our updated move-in process and other screening measures, it is 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.

Update on Move-In and Face-to-Face Instruction

The university has established an updated move-in process for all resident students currently off campus who want to move in for the Fall semester. This process requires that students test negative first before being cleared to move in. We are testing small groups of students in accord with recommendations from the Baltimore County Department of Health. We are pleased to see that a great number of students want to move back to campus, and we thank them for their patience as we implement this gradual testing and move-in process for the health and safety of all.

While we continue with remote instruction for all classes, the Provost and Deans are working to pilot course sections for face-to-face hybrid instruction. Thirty-nine additional course sections will start hybrid instruction on Monday, September 21. Together with 26 sections that began this week, there will be 65 sections available in face-to-face hybrid format as of next week. Students in these classes have been

notified and have the option of attending the hybrid classes or continuing remote instruction. This process will continue to be gradual, based on the considerations of pedagogy, density, and physical distancing, and monitored for the safety of students and faculty.

Keep Stevenson Safe, Mustangs!

We want to say thank you to all members of our university community who are making the health and safety of our campus a priority—students and their families, faculty and staff, and the Baltimore County Department of Health and other local and state agencies that support us with guidance as we respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Even as we continue into the semester, the reality of COVID-19 remains. We will closely monitor our community, remain flexible and resilient, and make adjustments to promote the health and wellness of our campus. As Stevenson continues to manage our ongoing response to the pandemic, we will provide you periodic updates on testing results, positivity rates, and responses to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

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