

September 30, 2020 - SU to Implement Randomized COVID Testing for Students

Dear Stevenson Students,

In our ongoing efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our campus community, Stevenson will implement an additional COVID-19 testing program. The purpose of this testing program will be to help us proactively identify students who have COVID-19 but do not show symptoms and, as a result, may inadvertently spread the virus to others. The testing program we will use, with guidance from the Baltimore County Department of Health, is random surveillance testing. We expect the testing program to commence on October 8, 2020, and to continue as necessary through the 2020-2021 academic year.

Below are FAQs to help you understand this testing program.

Why randomized testing?

Completing regular cycles of COVID-19 testing on a random sample of students will be an additional tool we can use to assess the possible prevalence of COVID-19 within our campus community. Having this information will help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and further support the health and well-being of students.

How will this testing work?

Each week, a random and representative sample of residential and commuter students will be selected to receive a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test. Commuter students eligible for this testing will include only those commuter students, including commuter student-athletes, who visit campus either to access facilities and resources or to attend in-person classes. The Wellness Center will conduct the testing on campus, and it will be free of charge to students.

How will I be notified if I am randomly selected? What do I do if I am selected?

Students selected for testing will be notified via their SU email account and given a 7-day period during which they can choose a day and time to schedule a testing appointment. The email will contain instructions on how to schedule a testing appointment on campus. Students need to check their SU email accounts regularly. It is the student's responsibility to respond and to be tested if they are randomly selected. Students will be notified by the Wellness Center of their test results within 72 hours of receiving the test.

What happens if I am selected and test positive?

Any asymptomatic student who receives a positive test result through this process will be directed to isolate at their permanent address for at least 10 days from the date the test was administered. The Wellness Center will advise the student on the isolation and symptom monitoring procedures that must be followed in order to be cleared for return to campus. Each student will also be contacted by a member of the Stevenson Contact Response Team who will provide further instructions and who will seek to identify the student's close contacts, if any. A close contact is anyone who, with or without mask on, was within 6-feet of a COVID-19 infected

person for at least 15 minutes. For more information about close contacts from the CDC, click [here](#).

While in isolation, each student will also receive support coordinated through the Contact Response Team and can continue to attend their classes remotely.

Any student who has been identified as a possible close contact of an asymptomatic positive student will be contacted by a member of the Stevenson Contact Response Team to determine if a 14-day quarantine period is required. If quarantine is necessary, the Contact Response Team will provide support and guidance to the student so they can complete their quarantine and continue their classes remotely before being cleared to return to campus.

Am I required to test if selected?

Because identifying asymptomatic positive cases can help to manage and mitigate spread of COVID-19 on our campus, the testing will be required, as outlined in the [Stevenson University Safety Policy](#). If you are selected to participate in the testing, and are not exempt, failure to comply may result in disciplinary consequences or removal from campus. There are some exemptions, which include having tested negative for COVID-19 within 5 days of receiving the email notification for random testing; being currently ill and not being able to visit the campus testing location; disabilities that physically preclude testing; and a religious belief that restricts testing. Any student who wishes to request an exemption must email the Wellness Center at wellness@stevenson.edu. A provider at the Wellness Center will review the request and notify the student whether or not they will be exempt.

What should I do in the meantime?

Whether you are randomly selected for a COVID-19 test or not, we all must continue to practice the CDC-recommended health and hygiene measures—wearing face coverings, practicing physical distancing of at least 6-feet indoors and out, avoiding crowds and large gatherings, and daily monitoring for possible symptoms of COVID-19. These protective measures are the best things we can do to keep ourselves, our peers, and campus community safe.

Thank you for ongoing commitment to Keep Stevenson Safe,

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