



## COVID-19 Testing Strategy Summary, Spring 2021

Revised 3/10/2021

### Introduction

Cal U will be implementing a COVID-19 testing plan for the Spring 2021 semester. This plan will be part of the University's overall pandemic response plan.

### Goal

The ultimate goal of this plan is to assist with the reduction of virus spread in our campus community. This will be accomplished by implementing a tiered approach to testing as recommended by the [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#) and the [CDC](#). The four tiers of testing that will be offered by the University are:

- Symptomatic (students only)
- Exposure (students only)
- Entry
- Surveillance

The University has set a goal of testing 1,200 campus members before the start of the semester. We also plan to test as many as 650 campus members each week during the semester.

### Procedures

**Symptomatic testing** – Testing of symptomatic students will be performed by the Health Center in Carter Hall. An individual showing symptoms of COVID-19 will receive a BinaxNOW™ rapid test. This test provides rapid results that allow the University to respond quickly if results are positive. Per recommendations for rapid tests, a symptomatic student with a negative test result will need to take a PCR test to confirm that symptoms are not associated with COVID-19.

Employees experiencing symptoms should not come to campus. Symptomatic employees should contact their healthcare provider for further instructions.

**Exposure testing** – Students who experienced an on-campus exposure to the coronavirus and continue to be symptom-free should self-quarantine and contact the Health Center to schedule a BinaxNOW™ rapid test. This test should not be given until 5-7 days after the exposure. A negative test result will allow the student to exit quarantine after seven (7) days rather than waiting 10 days as required by CDC guidelines without a negative test.

Employees who are exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider for further instructions.

**Entry testing** – Before the start of the spring semester, the University will test all student-athletes and all students who will be living in on-campus residence halls. This testing is mandatory.

Voluntary entry testing also will be available for employees and commuter students.

**Surveillance testing** will be performed weekly for asymptomatic (symptom-free) student-athletes and Athletics staff, based on NCAA requirements. Surveillance testing also will be required for students living in residence halls. The goal is to test 25% of residence hall students every week.

Testing for employees and commuter students will be offered on a voluntary basis.

### **How to sign up for testing**

All eligible students will receive an email from the University with information about Cal U's testing vendor, along with information that includes a scannable QR Code and further instructions on how to sign up for testing. As part of the signup process, each participant will be asked to provide all information required by the CDC.

The University will cover the cost of any COVID-19 testing.

All student-athletes, Athletics employees and students living in residence halls are required to register for testing. Testing for other campus members is voluntary, but registration is required if they wish to participate in any part of the testing program.

### **How to get tested**

**Symptomatic testing** will be available for students through the Health Center in Carter Hall. Because Health Center staff will not be seeing walk-in patients this spring, students who experience symptoms should schedule a COVID-19 test by calling the Health Center at 724-938-4232. Health Center staff will provide further instructions when students call to schedule the test.

**Exposure testing** also will be available for students through the Health Center. If a symptom-free student is in quarantine because of exposure to the coronavirus, a test can be provided 5-7 days after the exposure occurred. A negative test result will allow the student to end the quarantine after seven days, rather than waiting the 10 days required without a negative test.

Exposure testing will be available from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Health Center. An appointment is required, since the Health Center will not be taking walk-ins during the spring semester.

**Entry testing** will be performed before the start of the semester by our testing vendor. Sample-taking will be performed on the mezzanine level of the Convocation Center. The testing site will be open January 21, 22 and 23 (move-in week) to test all student-athletes and students living in on-campus residence halls. Entry testing for resident students will end at 4 p.m. January 23.

**Surveillance testing** for asymptomatic student-athletes and Athletics staff will be performed every Wednesday during the spring semester. This testing will be monitored by the Athletic Director.

Surveillance testing for all other students will be performed from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesdays in the Convocation Center. Students must set up an account with our testing vendor prior to their

first test. Students can schedule a test by logging in to their account or by walking in to the testing site.

Surveillance testing using the BinaxNOW™ rapid test will be available for asymptomatic employees and students from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Fridays. Testing will be conducted in the Carter Hall Multipurpose Room, on the ground level of Carter Hall. No pre-registration or appointment is required.

### **Test Results**

Students and student-athletes who are tested in the Convocation Center will receive a notification via email when their test results are ready. They can log in to their vendor account to see the results.

Students and employees who receive a rapid test at the Health Center will be notified **ONLY** if their test result is positive.

**Note:** Anyone who has tested positive is exempt from testing for 90 days after their positive test result unless they are showing symptoms of COVID-19.