

MEMO - Mandatory COVID-19 Testing & Compliance

With the rise in COVID-19 cases throughout the state and country, the University has made the decision to require mandatory COVID testing for students throughout the spring 2021 semester. Testing will occur five (5) days per week on campus. The testing process is quite simple, and involves a self-swab of the front part of the nasal cavities. See the end of this email for more information about the testing protocol as well as details about the self-swabbing process.

Weekly COVID testing will be mandatory for a subset of students including the following groups:

- Residential students
- Athletes who are practicing or competing (further information will be provided by Athletics regarding athlete testing requirements)
- Nursing students
- Commuters who are scheduled to be on campus three days a week for in-person classes
- Students who have been selected to participate in a particular week's surveillance testing, even if you don't belong to the above groups

Students required to participate in mandatory COVID testing will be notified on Fridays via email that they will be required to select a time to test the following week, Monday through Friday. Students must attend their selected testing time at the test site located in Miller Hall. Should a student be unable to attend their selected testing time, or have an extenuating conflict that week, they will need to email the Covid Case Manager, Mary O'Friel, at mofriel@fitchburgstate.edu in order to reschedule their testing appointment.

If You are Symptomatic:

The campus testing site does not allow us to test people who are symptomatic. If you are experiencing [symptoms of COVID-19](#), do not come to campus. Students who develop symptoms should remain in your residence on or off campus and contact your healthcare provider. Then notify the Office of Student Affairs (studentaffairs@fitchburgstate.edu or 978.665.3130). If the onset of the symptoms occurs after regular business hours, remain in place and call University Police (978.665.3111).

Non-compliance with Mandatory Testing:

Students who do not comply with mandated testing by the University will be referred to the student conduct process and will be found responsible for violating public health requirements.

When a student who is mandated to test fails to do so, they will have until the end of the following Tuesday to be tested. Should they fail to do so, the following sanctions will be applied:

- First Offense Violation: (1) Written warning, (2) \$50.00 fine, (3) “COVID and the Campus” educational module
- Second Offense Violation: (1) Disciplinary Probation, (2) \$100.00 fine
- Third Offense Violation: Removal from Housing and/or Restriction from Campus for the remainder of the semester
- Fourth Offense Violation: Suspension from the University

Please note that the above sanctions are cumulative each time a student fails to comply with mandatory testing. As an example, if Student A fails to test in the 2nd week of the semester and then complies in each subsequent week until the 7th week of the semester, Student A will then be at the 2nd Offense in Week 7.

Also note that a student who fails to comply twice consecutively will be temporarily removed or banned from campus.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to studentaffairs@fitchburgstate.edu. For updated information on the Coronavirus, please visit the University’s [Coronavirus Information webpage](#).

The Testing Process:

- Participants will be screened for symptoms at the entrance to Miller Hall.
- A test kit will be distributed to participants in order to perform the self-swab.
- Participants will be led to a station, equipped with tissues and hand sanitizer. They will then conduct a self-swab of their nose.
- Participants will package the swab for testing and check out with a staff member.
 - Here are [written instructions](#) about how to do the self-swab for participants.
 - Here is a [video](#) about how to do the self-swab for participants. Note that we will implement hand sanitization before and after the testing rather than hand washing.

Results are expected from the Broad Institute within about 24-48 hours. Students will receive automatic notification of a negative result via their student email. If the result is positive, the contact tracing process, led by the Fitchburg State University COVID-19 Operations Team, will provide notification.