

## Responses to Faculty Senate Questions

### **Reporting of COVID positive cases in classroom – who is informed and what do they need to do after that?**

If a positive case has indicated on the reporting form that they have been in a classroom within the last 3 days, then Facilities is automatically notified to begin the cleaning process. Per recommendations of the CDC, any room that a positive case has occupied for 15 minutes or more will be cleaned. Completion of the reporting form will also initiate the contact tracing process. A contact tracer will call the positive case to collect additional information, including the identity of close contacts. Close contacts are then notified of the potential exposure. As a reminder, any individual within 6 feet of a positive case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period is considered a close contact. Anyone that has tested positive for COVID-19 (vaccinated or not), will be required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days. Close contacts will need to quarantine. The Office of the Provost has created an informational graphic that consolidates many of the questions asked by faculty instructors concerning COVID reporting and exposure protocols, who UH contact tracers inform of a potential exposure in the classroom, and the actions which both faculty and students should take if they test positive, receive a clinical diagnosis for COVID, or who may have been exposed to COVID. This informational graphic is available as part of the Faculty Fall 2021 FAQ found on the Office of the Provost website, and has been provided to department chairs for distribution to all faculty instructors.

### **Requiring weekly testing – just like UT and TAMU – even if it is a snapshot, it is a measure that will add more protection. Can we do it? How do other monitor it if they require it?**

UT - Protect Texas Together App Activity Pass -  
[https://www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu/coronavirus\\_proactive\\_testing.html](https://www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu/coronavirus_proactive_testing.html)

- A “cleared” designation (green check) in your Activity Pass allows you to attend university-related events where COVID-19 documentation is required for one week from the date of your last Proactive Community Testing (PCT) test.
- Voluntary program
- Encouraged to test every 4 days

TAMU – <https://www.tamu.edu/coronavirus/messages/fall-2021-covid-19-management-and-guidance-plans.html>

- Mandatory
- Testing provided by TAMU between Aug. 23, 2021 and Sept. 10, 2021 (testing entities off campus will not be accepted)
- Testing intervals will be designated by TAMU

**Suggestion of a random study to get an indication of the level of protection and immunity within our campus community.**

It is likely that there would be a strong response bias favoring those who are vaccinated. One would not be able to require individuals randomized to receive the survey to respond; even if one incentivized the survey participants to respond anonymously. It is very likely that there would be a much lower response rate from those who have chosen not to receive the vaccine. This would lead to results that significantly overestimated the vaccination rate. If one were to choose a random sample and request they have their antibody levels tested, it is very likely that the same participation bias would exist: those unvaccinated would be less likely to participate. And antibody levels are not terribly helpful in determining immunity, because we don't really know what level of antibody titers predict immunity. So the results would not be predictive of immunity, and even if they were, the participation bias would overestimate the "herd" immunity.

**There is a lot of confusion about quarantine guidelines. Apparently what we require is different than what CDC recommends. Please check. Why are we requiring 14 day quarantine?**

Quarantine is for anyone that may have been exposed to COVID-19, including those returning from international travel. The UH required quarantine period mirrors the CDC's optional shortened quarantine. We currently have two available quarantine options:

- At least 10 days have passed since the beginning of self-quarantine (the date you had close contact), no symptoms have appeared, and you have had no further close contact with that individual or anyone else with COVID-19; or
- At least 7 days have passed since the beginning of self-quarantine, no symptoms have appeared, and you have had a negative COVID PCR test done no sooner than 5 days after starting the self-quarantine.

Per the CDC recommendations and UH guidelines, quarantine is not required for those that have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and the following apply:

- You are fully vaccinated (i.e.,  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single dose vaccine) AND
- You have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.

However, the following CDC guidance is highly encouraged:

- Get tested 3-5 days after your exposure (even if you do not have symptoms) and
- Wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until your test result is negative.

**Apparently UT is requiring immune-dependency (having someone at home with compromised immune system) as a reason for remote work authorization. Please check.**

From UT Website:

### **New Guidance for Faculty Living with Immunocompromised Dependents**

Immunocompromised individuals are most at risk from COVID-19. Individual faculty and staff members should submit their requests for accommodations for their own medical conditions through the ADA accommodation process.

Due to the nature of the Delta variant, UT recognizes that some faculty scheduled to teach in-person will need to move their courses online for the 2021 fall semester for the safety of an immunocompromised **dependent** who lives with the faculty member. Based on currently available data on serology post vaccination and expert opinion, a faculty member will automatically qualify for a flexible teaching modality arrangement if their dependent has one of the preapproved conditions listed below. The flexible teaching modality arrangement will allow the faculty member to move their course(s) and all meetings online for the 2021 fall semester. Faculty members with flexible teaching modality arrangements are expected not to travel during the 2021 fall semester.

- Dependents with solid organ transplants or stem cell transplant
- Dependents who are currently in cycle for chemotherapy or cancers associated with immune deficiency (leukemia and lymphomas)
- Dependents with chronic inflammatory diseases treated with systemic corticosteroid therapy > 20 mg prednisone daily, immunomodulator medications, and/or biologic agent
- Dependents with primary immune deficiency disorder
- Dependents with immune deficiencies due to HIV infection
- Dependents with sickle cell disease (not trait)
- Dependents with surgical asplenia

At this time, living with a child under the age of 12 who is not immunocompromised will not qualify the faculty member for a flexible teaching modality arrangement.

### **How to make sure that people will report positive test results? Can we have a student honor code?**

As outlined in the University's COVID-19 guidelines, it is the expectation that students, faculty, and staff report a positive COVID-19 test result. This reporting is based on the University's outlined expectation and an individual's personal responsibility. If it comes to the attention of a member of the UH community that a student has failed to report the results of a positive COVID-19 test, the UH community member should report the matter to the Office of the Dean of Students at <https://uh.edu/dos/behavior-conduct/incident-report/>. The student may be subject to disciplinary action through the UH Student Code of Conduct.