



UNIVERSITY OF  
**HEALTH SCIENCES  
& PHARMACY**

in St. Louis

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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## **Statement to the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis Community**

DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021

TO: All Students, All Faculty, All Staff

FROM: John A. Pieper, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, President of the University

RE: Important Information Regarding the Start of the Spring Semester

Students, Faculty and Staff:

We hope you had a wonderful Winter Break and were able to enjoy some well-deserved time off from your work and studies. Following the completion of fall classes, we continued to refine our return plans for this semester, and we look forward to welcoming you back to classes next week.

Below are some important reminders regarding our health and safety guidelines and our spring COVID-19 testing strategy. The distribution of COVID-19 vaccines across the country is exciting, and we hope to return to normal on-campus activities soon, but, for now, our work is not done.

We must continue to be vigilant and committed to our collective well-being to make our spring semester as successful as the fall.

### **Community Reminders**

As you read in previous messages, we expect the spring semester to look and feel like the fall, and our health and safety guidelines will remain in place.

- Our Academic Calendar is published online at [uhsp.edu/academiccalendar](https://uhsp.edu/academiccalendar). In the event of changes, we will alert the campus community and update the calendar online.
- The most up-to-date information regarding our [health and safety guidelines](#), [self-screening requirements](#), [travel restrictions](#), [academic information](#) and instructions for [conducting business with campus offices and departments remotely](#) is available

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**Discovery** begins here.



on our COVID-19 website at [uhsp.edu/covid19](https://uhsp.edu/covid19). Please refer to this resource as it will be updated to reflect any changes.

- All students, faculty and staff should continue to observe social distancing and mask requirements and complete a [Daily Wellness Screening](#) before coming to campus.

Additionally, we will implement a COVID-19 testing strategy for students throughout the spring semester. We ask that you read the information below carefully, and contact Carlin Harp, emergency management coordinator, at [carlin.harp@uhsp.edu](mailto:carlin.harp@uhsp.edu) if you have questions.

### Testing Overview

At the highest level, our testing strategy employs different approaches for two primary student populations:

1. **Students living in University housing.** This population primarily comprises undergraduate students and includes student-athletes and upper-level students living in our residence halls.
2. **Students living off campus.** This population primarily comprises professional students as well as those living off campus and commuting for in-person learning activities.

**Our COVID-19 testing program will begin immediately upon our return to campus, and the first week of classes (January 11-15) will be held virtually for all students while we conduct our initial round of testing for residential students.**

- Spring semester move-in will be conducted by appointment.
- Upon move-in, residents will receive a test kit with instructions in their student mailbox to self-administer a saliva-based test. Completed test kits must be returned to a designated drop box by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 12.
- During Week 1 of the semester, whenever possible, residents should self-quarantine in their residence hall rooms while attending classes virtually. When residents are required to visit other areas of campus, such as the Café, all campus health and safety guidelines must be closely followed.
- Residents will receive notification of their test results from Carlin Harp, emergency management coordinator. All students with negative test results will be cleared to begin in-person learning at the start of Week 2. Any student who receives a positive test result will be provided additional instruction on quarantine/isolation requirements and support resources.

**During Week 1, students living off campus should attend classes virtually and remain off campus until arriving for in-person learning during Week 2.**



Following the first week of classes, COVID-19 testing will proceed as follows.

### **Ongoing Testing for Students Living in University Housing**

- Residents will be assigned to one of two testing groups, Group A and Group B. The groups will complete testing on alternating weeks throughout the spring semester. Residents will receive an email reminder from Carlin Harp prior to their testing week.
- Saliva-based test kits will be delivered to student mailboxes beginning on Sunday evening. Completed test kits must be returned to a designated drop box by 5 p.m. Tuesday of the same week. The drop boxes are in North Residence Hall on the fifth floor and South Residence Hall in the first-floor lobby.
- After submitting test kits, students should continue to follow all COVID-19 guidelines and monitor for any signs of illness. If symptoms develop prior to receiving test results, please contact Carlin Harp immediately.
- Residents will receive notification of their results as soon as they become available (we expect by Friday or Saturday of the same week). Any student who receives a positive test result will be provided additional instruction on isolation requirements and support resources.

### **Testing for Students Living Off Campus**

- Leveraging the homeroom model that has been implemented by St. Louis College of Pharmacy, we will conduct pooled testing using a 15% random sample of each homeroom group. This pooled testing will be conducted weekly throughout the spring semester. Students selected to complete pooled testing will be notified by Carlin Harp via email.
- Beginning each Monday at 9 a.m., students selected for testing will pick up a test kit from the RAS Front Desk to self-administer a saliva-based test.
- Completed test kits must be returned to a designated drop box in the first-floor lobby of South Residence Hall by 5 p.m. Tuesday of the same week.
- After submitting test kits, students should continue to follow all COVID-19 safety guidelines and monitor for any signs of illness. If you begin developing symptoms prior to receiving test results, please contact Carlin Harp immediately.
- Students who are tested will receive notification of their test results as soon as they become available (we expect by Friday or Saturday of the same week). Any student who receives a positive test result will be provided additional instruction on isolation requirements and support resources.



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P4 students will continue to follow all experiential program- and practice site-specific policies and procedures throughout the spring semester.

We must all do our part to protect each other, and students who fail to comply with COVID-19 testing procedures **will not be permitted to attend class sessions virtually or in person, and they will not be granted an excused absence** from class sessions (including exams, quizzes and other graded activities) until they comply with testing procedures.

Students who consistently fail to comply with required testing procedures will be referred to our University conduct process. Exemptions from scheduled testing will be approved on a case-by-case basis and requests for an exemption should be submitted to Carlin Harp.

This testing strategy will allow us to quickly identify cases within our community and respond to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on campus, but we continue to navigate a dynamic environment. Our leadership team meets weekly to review our progress on campus and adjust our strategy when needed.

Despite the ongoing challenges we are facing, we are thrilled to welcome you back for the spring semester. We can't wait to see your accomplishments!

Take care of yourselves and each other, and we will continue to share updates with you as new information becomes available.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. PIEPER, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, FFIP  
President and Professor