

**Subject:** Update on UWA's COVID-19 Response and Testing  
**Date:** Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 2:10:10 PM Central Standard Time  
**From:** UWA President  
**To:** All Faculty and Staff, All Students  
**Attachments:** image001.gif, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, image006.png



## Weekly COVID-19 Response Update

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Dear UWA Family,

In reflecting on what a “successful” semester means to each of us, it may be a return to more of the events and traditions we enjoy, more familiar routines for classes, or a more convenient work flow. For all of these reasons and many more, we must all follow the guidelines set before us at all times, even when we are away from campus. The increase in positives and quarantines this week appears to largely be the result of gatherings occurring off-campus. The vast majority of the quarantines could have been avoided by simply practicing social distancing – as prescribed in the University’s [Operational Plan for Spring Semester 2021](#). Each one of us must assume personal responsibility to do what is right and what has been asked of us.

University employees are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccination as identified in the Alabama Department of Public Health’s Allocation Plan, Phase 1b. ADPH has launched an online portal for individuals to check their eligibility for vaccination and make appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations at county health departments. The portal also provides up-to-date information about additional drive-through and walk-in clinics being offered. The portal can be accessed at <https://www.alcovidvaccine.gov/>.

- Currently, there are 18 students and 2 employees (roughly 1.73% of the student population and 1.32% of total on-campus population) with reported positive cases of COVID-19. This total includes GuideSafe™ Sentinel Testing for last week (week ending January 29). Last week, 82 sentinel tests were performed with 1 positive case of COVID-19.
- 47 students and 2 employees of the University are in quarantine (approximately 3.22% of the University community) due to experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms or from potential exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Please remember that you can sign-up for Sentinel Testing provided through our partnership with GuideSafe™. This testing, available at no cost to students and

employees, will continue each week throughout the semester. Information on registering for Sentinel Testing can be found [here](#).

If I can help in any way this semester, please feel free to let me know.

Take care and be safe,



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## **[Operational Plan for Spring Semester 2021](#)**

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