Weekly COVID-19 Response Update

Dear UWA Family,

I am encouraged by the recent extension of eligibility for all individuals in the state of Alabama age 16 and older to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Through vaccination, our University can more quickly return to “normal” here on campus. For those of you who have not yet been vaccinated, I want to strongly encourage you to receive the vaccine, as I have, and a very high rate of employees have. Individuals who are fully vaccinated are said to be less likely to contract COVID-19 and do not have to quarantine in situations where they have been exposed to an individual who has COVID-19.

The University will continue to adhere to the Operational Plan for Spring 2021 for the remainder of this semester. This includes the requirement, among others, that facial coverings be worn at all times on campus when social distancing cannot be maintained.

Weekly testing continues on our campus. Information on GuideSafe™ Sentinel Testing can be found here. Sentinel Testing, which will continue through April 29, is voluntary and designed for asymptomatic individuals.

- Currently, 2 students and 1 employee (0.19% of the student population and 0.20% of total on-campus population) have reported positive cases of COVID-19. This total includes GuideSafe™ Sentinel Testing for the week ending April 16. For the week ending April 16, 62 Sentinel Tests were performed with 1 positive case of COVID-19. So far this semester 977 Sentinel Tests have been performed with 5 positive results.

- Currently, 6 students and 1 employee of the University are in quarantine (approximately 0.46% of the University community) due to experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms or from potential exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
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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