

Subject: Update on UWA's COVID-19 Response and Testing
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 3:57:34 PM Central Daylight Time
From: UWA President
To: All Faculty and Staff, All Students
Attachments: image001.gif, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, image006.png



A Message from UWA President Ken Tucker

Dear UWA Family,

We continue to progress through a semester that has been far from ideal for all of us, but all of our efforts are necessary to provide a safer and healthier campus. The restrictions put in place as a result of COVID-19 can be very frustrating to be sure, but we must continue to follow the guidance of federal, state, and local health officials as we move toward the end of this semester and develop plans for the spring semester.

We continue to monitor daily the effects of the pandemic on the nation and our University. The [Operational Plan for Fall Semester 2020](#) has provided a roadmap that has served us well thus far, but it certainly is not infallible, nor is the plan set in stone. We continue to review this plan and make necessary adjustments as needed to offer the best educational environment we can, while also providing one that is safe and healthy.

- Currently, there are 7 students and 3 employees (roughly 0.56% of the student population and 0.58% of total on-campus population) with reported positive cases of COVID-19. This total includes GuideSafe™ Sentinel Testing for last week (week ending October 9). Last week, 49 sentinel tests were performed (30 students and 19 faculty/staff) with no positive cases of COVID-19. *Thus far, a total of 255 Sentinel Tests have been performed with only one positive test result.*
- 21 students and 2 employees of the University are in quarantine (approximately 1.32% of the University community) due to experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms or from potential exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

I truly appreciate the patience and cooperation that has been shown by all – students, faculty, and staff – toward one another. I believe that the compassion we each experience throughout this trial will be what we remember when we look back on this time in our lives. Author and former Fulbright Scholar Robert McKee suggests, “True character is revealed in the choices a human being makes under pressure—the greater the pressure, the deeper the revelation, the truer the choice to the character’s essential nature.” Friends, we have all faced pressure and challenges over the last eight months, in one form or another. Still, I am convinced that we—both as individuals and as a University—will continue to show our true character, and that it will be described in terms of kindness, patience, the willingness to help others, as well as perseverance and a tenacity to do what is required of us, even when that is not fun or convenient. As always, we are in this together.

Take care and be safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Tucker, Ph.D.
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[Download the Operational Plan for Fall Semester 2020](#)

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