

**Subject:** Update on UWA's COVID-19 Response and Testing  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 2:31:34 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,

Each week as I share an update with you, I think about how the message may seem to some to always be the same. It's almost like going to the mailbox and being disappointed because there is no mail, but excited because there are no bills. While it's easy to become uninterested when there seems to be little change, we can certainly be thankful that there are no major changes to report for our campus in terms of COVID-19 numbers. Our dedication and efforts in safety remain critical to our continuation of the fall semester.

[As we announced last week](#), campus classes will be completed virtually following Thanksgiving break. I want to be clear that this decision was not made because we feel it is unsafe for students and employees to return after the Thanksgiving break. Unlike many other college campuses, the University has not seen "spikes" in positive cases when students return home for weekends or for longer breaks, such as the Labor Day weekend. Instead, this decision was made solely in an over-abundance of caution and to better ensure we can have a healthy and safe end to this semester by further minimizing personal contact.

- Currently, there are 5 students and 2 employees (roughly 0.40% of the student population and 0.40% of total on-campus population) with reported positive cases of COVID-19. This total includes GuideSafe™ Sentinel Testing for last week (week ending October 16). Last week, 38 sentinel tests were performed (25 students and 13 faculty/staff) with no positive cases of COVID-19. *Thus far, a total of 293 Sentinel Tests have been performed with only one positive test result.*
- 22 students and 4 employees of the University are in quarantine (approximately 1.5% 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 continue to be impressed and encouraged by the overall positive attitude and commitment to successfully completing a productive semester, regardless of our circumstances. You have shown that no matter the obstacles, working together for a common goal makes almost anything possible.

Take care and be safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Tucker".

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

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