

**Subject:** Update on UWA's COVID-19 Response and Testing  
**Date:** Friday, September 11, 2020 at 2:04:40 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,

At the close of our fourth week of classes on campus, I want to provide you an update, as promised, on our current positive and quarantine numbers. First, however, I would like to again thank all of our faculty, staff, and students who continue to go above and beyond to make this "unique" semester one that is as healthy, safe, and productive as possible.

I am encouraged by what I have seen and heard of our students' response to COVID-19 and the resulting guidelines put in place. With very few exceptions, reports are that students have adhered to facial covering requirements and have social distanced where applicable. Students are to be commended on their actions and attitude this semester.

Faculty and staff have gone above and beyond to make campus as safe and healthy as possible, taking on additional roles and duties and striving to provide a safer and healthier environment for our students. Faculty have adjusted schedules, teaching locations, and worked with students who have been quarantined to ensure that learning happens no matter the circumstances. Staff have worked tirelessly to provide the same services and as many opportunities to students as possible under these conditions. I sincerely thank you all for your dedication and commitment to this process.

Currently, there are 11 students and 0 employees (roughly 0.63% of on-campus population) quarantined as a result of a positive COVID-19 test result. Significantly, none of these students has reported any symptoms related to COVID-19. An additional 35 members of the University community are in quarantine (roughly 2% of the University community) due to potential exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or suffering from COVID-19-like symptoms. These quarantine numbers have risen as the University is taking extra precaution to quarantine anyone who has faced possible exposure or may display symptoms, erring on the side of caution, to reduce the potential for community spread.

The week ending September 4 saw the University begin its Sentinel Testing performed by GuideSafe™. Sixty students received COVID-19 tests, with 0 positive results reported. This week, the Sentinel Testing program was expanded to include faculty and staff along with students, all chosen through a randomized algorithm with parameters set by Verily (the service GuideSafe™ uses for testing registration). We should receive these results next week and will report them accordingly.

Again, thank you for your efforts in making the most out of this unique semester.

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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