

Subject: Update on UWA's COVID-19 Response and Testing
Date: Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 12:02:37 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,

In bringing you a weekly update, I want to begin with our participation in [GuideSafe™ Sentinel Testing](#). As you may remember, GuideSafe™ is a collaboration between UAB and the State of Alabama, funded through state CARES ACT money.

Individuals selected for Sentinel Testing are chosen through a randomized algorithm with parameters set by Verily (the service GuideSafe™ uses for testing registration). Unfortunately, the University does not have dominion over the parameters of the testing. Individuals cannot voluntarily test, and we cannot expand the number of individuals tested each week. The University simply provides GuideSafe™ with a list of all on-campus students and employees, and participants are selected randomly through that system.

Students need only to respond to the selection email, and student contact information is in the GuideSafe™ system as a result of re-entry testing. However, *employees* must register in the system to be eligible for selection. A follow-up email with instructions on the simple registration process was sent Tuesday to those who have not yet registered. If you have *still* not registered, please do so as soon as possible.

I continue to be cautiously optimistic in reviewing the number of positive cases on campus and number of quarantined individuals. Currently, there are:

- 10 students and 0 employees (roughly 0.79% of the student population and 0.57% of total on-campus population) with reported positive cases of COVID-19. This total includes GuideSafe™ Sentinel Testing for last week (week ending September 11). Last week, 36 sentinel tests were performed (22 students and 14 faculty/staff) with one student testing positive for COVID-19.
- 25 students and 2 employees of the University in quarantine (approximately 1.55% of the University community) due to experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms or from potential exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Importantly, there have been no known cases of student-to-employee transmission of COVID-19. Any faculty or staff who have tested positive for COVID-19, or who have been quarantined, are so as a result of off-campus exposure, and in almost all cases, exposure to a family member. While that indicates faculty, staff, and students are all doing their part to follow protocols in the classroom and the work area, it reminds us that we must remain vigilant and cautious even while away from the University.

Thank you, once again, for your efforts in following University protocols in relation to COVID-19.

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.
President
The University of West Alabama
phone: 205-652-3527
address: UWA Station 1
web: <http://www.uwa.edu/>

[Download the Operational Plan for Fall Semester 2020](#)

The University of West Alabama | uwa.edu

