

**Subject:** Update on UWA's COVID-19 Response and Testing  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 1:45:17 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,

While the number of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 has decreased this week, the number of quarantined individuals has increased. I am confident that the system we use for contact tracing at the University continues to work in its designed manner, but I am quite disappointed by the behavior of some that have led to their quarantine. Most individuals can avoid the need for quarantine entirely by simply following the protocols put in place this semester—chiefly by remaining socially distanced from one another and wearing facial coverings.

In accordance with University protocols, which are based on CDC guidance, anyone who has “close contact” with another individual that has tested positive for COVID-19 will be quarantined. Close contact is defined as being within six (6) feet of someone for more than 15 minutes in a day – regardless of whether facial coverings are used. As a University, we must all not only remain diligent, but also improve on staying socially distanced—more than six (6) feet away from others.

While this is difficult sometimes, it is imperative that we do so. Employees must model this behavior for our students. Employees and students alike must consciously make the effort to stay apart from one another, because we do not always know who has COVID-19 or will contract it. At UWA, we consider so many classmates and colleagues our friends, and we want to be close and do things together as we have in past semesters. Unfortunately, we are not yet at that point, and until that time comes, we must remain vigilant.

- Currently, there are 5 students and 3 employees (roughly 0.40% of the student population and 0.46% of total on-campus population) with reported positive cases of COVID-19. This total includes GuideSafe™ Sentinel Testing for last week (week ending September 18). Last week, 33 sentinel tests were performed (25 students and 8 faculty/staff) with no positive cases of COVID-19. *Thus far, a total of 127 Sentinel Tests have been performed with only one positive test result.*
- 31 students and 11 employees of the University are in quarantine (approximately 2.4% of the University community) due to experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms or from potential exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The vast majority of these are quarantined as a result of a lack of social distancing from someone with COVID-19.

While I am encouraged by the results of our [Sentinel Testing](#), we as a University community must continue to do what is asked of us in our fight with COVID-19. We cannot let our guard down and simply choose to ignore the health and safety protocols that we deem inconvenient. We must continue to follow the guidance of all federal, state, and local health authorities to ensure we have a safe and healthy experience on campus this fall.

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

Take care and be safe,



**Ken Tucker, Ph.D.**

President

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