

**University at Buffalo**  
**COVID-19 Supplemental Testing Plan**  
**Thanksgiving Break**  
**November 5, 2020**

**Introduction**

UB is committed to protecting the health and safety of the UB community while remaining focused on our academic, research and community service mission. Ensuring the safety of the campus community and greater community is our highest priority as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and implement our Thanksgiving break testing protocol.

**Testing Population**

Prior to the conclusion of in-person classes for the Fall 2020 semester, UB will shift from its approved surveillance testing protocol to the new SUNY policy which requires the following groups of undergraduate, graduate and professional students to be tested by UB or other means:

- Residential students;
- Students who are taking at least one class on UB's North, South or Downtown campuses;
- Students who use on-campus services such as dining, libraries or fitness facilities; and
- Student employees who work on UB's North, South or Downtown campuses.

On Monday, November 9, UB will commence this Thanksgiving break testing protocol and conclude by Wednesday, November 18.

**On-Campus Testing Registration**

**For Students:** Students who are required to be tested will register on-line for their UB testing date and time. Testing date will fall within 10-days prior to leaving campus for Thanksgiving break.

**For Faculty and Staff:** Faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in testing and will be required to register on-line for their UB testing date and time.

UB will establish three testing sites: North Campus (Alumni Arena), South Campus (Harriman Hall), and Downtown Campus (Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Building) to accommodate students, faculty and staff across our three campuses.

## **Off-Campus Testing: Student submission of results documentation from off-campus testing location**

To comply with the SUNY's pre-Thanksgiving mandated testing, students will have the option of providing documentation of a COVID-19 test completed off-campus taken 10-days prior to leaving campus for the Thanksgiving break.

UB's COVID-19 website will publish a link for students to use to upload their COVID-19 test results. UB personnel will audit uploaded documentation.

Audit criteria is as follows: student's first name, last name and date of birth. Documentation must include the specimen collection date, test result date, name of the test completed, and the result of the test. Documentation must show the name of the ordering health care provider and/or the laboratory service that completed the testing. The acceptable specimen collection date range must be within 10 days of the student's departure date.

Link to Upload Documentation will be published on <https://www.buffalo.edu/coronavirus/health-and-safety/testing/testing-students-before-thanksgiving-break.html>

## **UB Testing Protocol**

UB will continue to use Upstate Medical's COVID-19 Pooled Surveillance testing regimen. Through Michael Cain, M.D., Vice President of Health Sciences and Dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, the Erie County Commissioner of Health has been briefed regarding UB's pre-Thanksgiving testing regimen.

## **Isolation and Quarantine**

UB is able to house and support residential students who test positive for COVID-19 and require isolation as well as residential students who need to quarantine due to exposure to the virus.

Healthcare and mental health services for isolated students is provided by UB's Student Health Services and UB Counseling Services and via telemedicine services.

Additional details are listed on UB's COVID-19 [health and safety guidelines web page](#).

## **Emphasis of Safety Protocols**

Building on our robust health and safety communication strategy, UB will reinforce to students that they should limit contact, wear masks and practice social distancing upon taking their COVID-19 test and departure in order to avoid any potential exposure. UB will also explicitly encourage students to continue to practice precautionary measures even when they have departed campus in the period between the conclusion of the Fall 2020 semester and the beginning of the Spring 2021 semester.