



To: The AAMU Family

From: The AAMU COVID-19 Response Task Force

Date: March 3, 2022

RE: UPDATED 2022 Spring Semester Mask Policy

On February 25, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its framework to monitor the level of COVID-19 in communities to assist with guidance on mask wearing. This updated approach focuses on prevention efforts towards protecting people at high risk for severe illness and preventing hospitals and healthcare systems from being overwhelmed. Utilizing the CDC's updated guidance and the updated University's Re-Engagement Plan, the campus is now in **the Moderate Risk Scenario: Effective Response to the Virus (treatment) {CAUTION}**. In continuing our efforts to "Return to Normal," and "Shield the Hill," the AAMU COVID-19 Response Task Force is requiring that all faculty, staff, and students, observe the following guidance, in addition to COVID-19 safety measures:

MASK POLICY

As of March 3, 2022, Madison County's COVID-19 Community Level is **HIGH**.

[Check COVID-19 Community Level](#)

Based on current CDC guidance and the low vaccination rate of individuals on campus, the University will still adhere to **mandatory** masks, gaiters, and face shields *with* masks indoors on campus. As advised by the CDC, face shields are *not* adequate protection when used without a mask.

- Bandanas are PROHIBITED.
- The public indoor areas on campus include, but are not limited to, hallways, elevators, stairwells, bathrooms, open work areas, classrooms, closely confined workspaces, study areas, face-to-face meetings and any large gatherings where adequate social distancing cannot be achieved.
- Students are not required to wear masks in their room but should wear a mask in the hallways and common areas of the residence halls.
- Students are advised that failure to comply with the mask mandate when entering a classroom may result in referral to judicial affairs for incident review and sanction. Faculty may submit Incident Reports via the following link: [Report Mask Violation](#)

- Faculty are advised that failure to comply with the mask mandate in classrooms could subject you to disciplinary action.

CDC Community Level Recommendations

LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Limited impact on the healthcare system and low amounts of severe disease in the community.	Impact on the health care system and community experiencing uptick in severe disease	High impact on the health care system with potential strain on system and high amount of community experiencing severe disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions • Mask Optional • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a mask indoors in public • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Get tested if you have symptoms • Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

COVID-19 TESTING, QUARANTINE, AND ISOLATION GUIDELINES

The Student Health Center will continue to test individuals that are symptomatic or have had a known exposure to COVID-19. Everyone is asked to check your symptoms prior to arriving on campus or leaving your residence hall. The guidelines for campus testing will be reevaluated and revised as necessary.

If you are experiencing symptoms, please call the Student Health & Counseling Services at (256)783-2100. You will be asked to self-quarantine until you have been tested and to notify your supervisor or your professor. If you test positive, it is imperative that you complete the contact tracing survey. If you are a residential student who lives within a 250-mile radius of the university, you will need to leave campus within 24 hours of testing positive and isolate at home to reduce the spread of the virus on campus.

The University is following the latest recommendations made by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). One of those precautions is the use of quarantine and isolation. For more information on quarantine and isolation, click [here](#). If future outbreaks occur, the university will implement additional restrictions and the reduction of individuals on campus will be revisited.

If no vaccination card is on file with the Student Health & Counseling Services, it will be assumed that an individual is ***NOT*** fully vaccinated, and the individual will be required to quarantine and be tested for COVID-19. Vaccinated individuals, passed the eligibility period to receive a booster shot, will also be required to quarantine and be tested for COVID-19. Vaccinated individuals, with recorded booster shots, will have a modified quarantine period based on recommended guidance from the CDC.

VACCINATION INFORMATION

- The COVID-19 Vaccine is not a requirement per the State of Alabama. However, vaccinations are strongly encouraged and recommended for faculty, staff and students.
- The Student Health Center provides testing and vaccination services.
- After reentry testing, individuals that are experiencing symptoms or have been exposed to the virus can be tested Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 12:00pm and Tuesday from 1:30pm to 4:30pm by scheduling an appointment – [BOOK APPOINTMENT](#).

IF YOU TEST POSITIVE

- In the event of an employee testing positive, please contact Latonya Crutcher in the Office of Human Resources at 256-372-5845. She will be able to communicate what next steps are required.
- In the event of a student testing positive, please contact Health and Counseling Services at (256)783-2100. Upon notification, an email will be sent with instructions regarding isolation.

ACADEMIC & BUSINESS CONTINUITY

- Instructional delivery for all campus-based courses will be delivered in the manner as listed in the Spring registration schedule.
- Campus-based courses will be delivered in the originally scheduled modality. Classes are modeled for distancing, along with the placement of air purifiers in the classrooms.
- Students and employees should adhere to the campus mask policy in the classrooms & offices.
- All campus offices should be open and operating at full capacity. High traffic offices may continue the use of virtual lines (QLess) to avoid long lines and gathering of individuals in hallways and offices.

UNIVERSITY TRAVEL

- The University will follow the recommendations of the CDC and ADPH regarding testing and quarantining after domestic travel.
- The University will not authorize International Travel at this time. If individuals choose to voluntarily travel internationally, upon return to the United States, CDC recommendations regarding testing and quarantine will be followed.
- Campus organizations and athletic teams with 85% of the organization fully vaccinated will be allowed to travel with the University. Any chaperone accompanying student groups should be fully vaccinated.

DINING SERVICES

- Dining Services will have modified hours for in-person dining and take-out services are available.

HOUSING

- In the event a residential student tests positive, all roommates/suitemates will be tested and placed on quarantine. A positive residential student, that lives within a 250-mile radius, must isolate at home. Students that must quarantine may do so off-campus. Prior to leaving campus, the residence hall staff should be notified.
- These are temporary measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, which will be continually reviewed and updated as necessary.

Remember, when you arrive on the campus of Alabama A&M University:

Follow University and CDC guidelines.
Practice physical distancing when in the presence of others.
Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer as needed.
Complete health check daily.
Use temperature devices in the buildings.
Indoor activities are limited to capacity with mandatory masking.