

Atlanta University Center COVID-19 Guidelines and Vaccination Policy 2024-2025

Atlanta University Center Consortium: Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Spelman College and The Robert W. Woodruff Library at Atlanta University Center

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to promote the health and safety of our university community by continuing to inform the AUCC of our COVID-19 strategies, including strongly recommending COVID-19 vaccination. While the vaccine is not mandated for faculty, staff, and students, it is a crucial tool in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 on our campuses and in the broader community.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to the Atlanta University Center Consortium campuses.

Policy Statement

Atlanta University Center Consortium **strongly recommends** that all members of our community receive a COVID-19 vaccine and adhere to the AUCC COVID-19 strategies. Vaccination is an effective tool to help protect yourself and others from severe illness, reduce the spread of the virus and contribute to the safe continuation of in-person activities on campus.

Benefits of Getting Vaccinated

COVID 19-vaccines are effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. Vaccination remains the safest strategy for avoiding hospitalizations, long-term health outcomes, and death.

- Prevents serious illness: [COVID-19 vaccines](#) available in the United States are [safe and effective](#) at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying.
- A safer way to build protection: Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer, more reliable way to build protection than getting sick with COVID-19.
- Offers added protection: COVID-19 vaccines can offer added protection to people who had COVID-19, including protection against being hospitalized from a new infection.
- [Vaccines.gov](#) helps you find clinics, pharmacies, and other locations that offer COVID-19 vaccines in the United States.

Health and Safety Protocols

Regardless of vaccination status, all individuals on AUCC campuses are expected to adhere to current public health guidelines below.

- Individuals who test positive for COVID will self-isolate for 2 days (from the day they test positive, or day symptoms began).
- Individuals can resume normal activities once their symptoms have **improved** and they are **fever-free**—without fever-reducing medications for at **least 24 hours**.
- Individuals should take added precautions over the next 5 days (such as wearing a mask) when around others indoors.

Individuals with COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms ranging from mild symptoms to **severe illness**. Individuals should seek **emergency help** when they are experiencing any of the following:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Depending on skin tone, lips, nail beds and skin may appear pale, gray, or blue.

If you are **experiencing any** of the signs listed above, **call 911** or call ahead to your local emergency facility. Notify the operator that you are seeking care for COVID-19.

If you have additional questions or concerns employees, faculty and staff please contact your immediate supervisor, and students please email Student Health and Wellness Center at shwcrequests@msm.edu

Preventing Respiratory Viruses

- [Immunizations for Respiratory Viruses](#)
- [Hygiene and Respiratory Virus Prevention](#)
- [Taking Steps for Cleaner Air for Respiratory Virus Prevention](#)
- [Preventing Spread of Respiratory Viruses When You're Sick](#)
- [Masks and Respiratory Virus Prevention](#)
- [Physical Distancing and Respiratory Viruses](#)
- [Testing and Respiratory Viruses](#)

Locate Free COVID-19 Tests

- A map of kiosk locations for the Department of Public Health and a short video about using the kiosks can be found at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covidtesting>. Pre-registration for testing at the kiosks is not required but is available at <https://register.testandgo.com/>. There is no out-of-pocket cost for tests provided through a DPH kiosk, but for those individuals with insurance, their insurance will be billed for the test.
- Free test kits are also available statewide at county health departments.

Available Treatment for COVID-19

COVID-19 PCR testing is available at TestAndGo kiosks, (open 24-7) in communities across Georgia.

- If you have COVID-19 and are more likely to get very sick, medications are available that can reduce your risk of hospitalization and death.
- Don't delay: [Treatments](#) must be started within 5-7 days after you first develop symptoms to be effective.

Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary to reflect the latest public health guidance and university needs.

Contact Information

For more information about this policy, COVID-19 vaccination, or other infectious diseases please contact Kara Garretson, AUCC Sr. Epidemiologist, Infection Control & Safety Coordinator.

Email: kgarretson@msm.edu

Office: 404-756-1258

Additional COVID-19 Resources

[Georgia Department of Health](#)

[AUCC Student Health & Wellness Center](#)

[Morehouse Healthcare Telemedicine](#)