

July 13, 2021

State and local health officials are concerned about a recent increase in COVID-19 cases across Utah, linked to the more contagious Delta variant. This increasing trend has been seen at USU, as well.

Nearly all of these cases are among unvaccinated individuals. Additional cases are highly preventable: The COVID-19 vaccine is the most effective tool we have to stop the spread of the original virus and new, more infectious variants. All Utahns age 12 and older can now get a free COVID-19 vaccine, and we strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated.

In addition to being free, many health departments, clinics, and pharmacies have vaccines available without an appointment and at convenient hours. Visit <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine-distribution/> to find locations near you. There are many myths about vaccines in Utah and across the nation, but you can find accurate, scientifically based information at <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine-facts/>.

If you do feel sick or have been exposed to COVID-19, please get tested. The Logan campus has free testing for students and employees in the East Stadium lot, Monday through Friday, 8-10 a.m. You can schedule a test here: <https://aggiehealth.usu.edu/confirm.aspx>. If you are not in the Logan area, visit <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/utah-covid-19-testing-locations/> to find a testing location.

Thank you,
Ellis Bruch
Director of Emergency Management

Work Schedules for Student Employees

1. Supervisor will check each employee for symptoms before every shift, those who exhibit signs of illness will not be asked to report to work.
2. Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be readily available to all employees at service areas.
3. Student employees will be scheduled so that no more than 2 employees are behind the service desks at a time.
4. Student work areas will be spaced to at least six feet apart.
5. Student employees will be encouraged to take breaks and meals outside of the Library.
6. Student employees will not provide any service that require close contact with the patrons.
7. Student employees should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms.
8. Student employees who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health.

Employee Safety Guidelines for Onsite Work

1. All employees will follow USU's COVID-19 hygiene standards. Including frequent hand-washing and/or use of hand sanitizer, avoiding touch their eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands, and covering coughs and sneezes.
2. Masks are no longer required. However, we encourage the use of face coverings in tight, indoor settings, particularly for those individuals who have not been vaccinated.
3. Meetings and training will be scheduled in spaces that facilitate social distancing and/or occur remotely using web-conferencing tools.
4. The supervisor will accommodate employees who need extra precautions to reduce the risk of getting sick.

Public Spaces and Library Services

1. Public computer workstations will not be available but we will encourage patrons to use their own devices and provide adequate outlets.
2. Items that cannot be easily disinfected will have a 4-day quarantine before re-use.
3. Computer labs and conference room will be open to the public with safe social distancing restrictions in place.
4. Study tables will have a limit of 4 per table.
5. Chairs at the table will be spaced to maintain a distance of six feet at all times.
6. The services desk will mark waiting areas to maintain a 6-foot distance from the student employee and other patrons.
7. CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

Facility Protocols to Protect Employees and Visitors

1. Library facilities are open to the campus community for circulation activities, individual study, display visitation, and computer use.
2. The computer labs and conference room will be thoroughly disinfected each morning and evaluated throughout the day.
3. Hand sanitizer will be strategically placed within the building including the main entrance.
4. Chairs will be removed and signage will be placed on tables to facilitate social distancing throughout. Improved social distancing measures will include the removal of some computer workstations. The use of face coverings will be required when participating in any activity where social distancing cannot be achieved.
5. Staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces within the library daily or between use as much as possible. Shared objects that cannot be cleaned between uses will be quarantined for 4 days.

Protocols for Suspected or Confirmed Diagnosis

1. Student employees must self-monitor for symptoms and report to the supervisor if they have concerns about possible COVID-19 exposure or possible symptoms.
2. Symptomatic staff will be required to self-isolate until tested for COVID-19 and the results confirmed.
3. If the test results are negative but the staff remains ill they should remain at home.
4. If the test results are positive the staff member will report the information through the COVID-19 Questionnaire on the USU COVID-19 Website.