



COVID-19 Mandatory Testing Protocol

The University adopted this protocol to be in full compliance with current state and local orders and consistent with existing federal and state guidance. The Provost's Office may issue updated protocols, which become effective upon adoption, to comply with changes in state and local orders, to be consistent with new federal and state guidance, or to adapt to changing conditions on campus. Please watch for updates to these protocols and regularly check the DU COVID-19 [website](#) for news and other important information.

Following a comprehensive review of colleges and university performance in fall term, the University of Denver (DU) identified eight institutions that were able to operate their fall term in person with case counts/positivity rates at or below DU's case counts/positivity rates in surrounding communities with COVID-19 prevalence conditions at or above those in Denver. Although DU completed 29,833 Nasal Swab RT-PCR tests in fall term, each of these eight institutions conducted significantly more testing than DU. Therefore, to manage the higher expected positivity conditions in winter term, DU is changing its COVID-19 testing program and providing resources for a significant increase in test frequency.

All students, faculty, staff, and other personnel participating in any on-campus activities at DU must participate in DU's COVID-19 testing program on the schedule set forth below. This includes all students, faculty, staff and other personnel who live, work, and/or attend classes on campus. All students living in Congregate Housing or who have close contact with other DU students must participate in the mandatory testing program, even if their class schedule is entirely online.

For purposes of this protocol:

- Congregate Housing includes:
 - University owned or operated housing, such as residence halls and apartment communities; and
 - Fraternity and sorority housing, whether University owned or operated or privately owned.
- Higher Contact includes staff and other personnel who (a) daily or frequently work within University owned or operated housing and/or in indoor athletic or health facilities used by students; (b) frequently interact in person with students outside of an academic setting; and/or (c) work in-person with children in educational settings on campus. DU will notify individuals designated as Higher Contact by DU; individuals who believe they are Higher Contact may voluntarily test at this frequency. Categories of Higher Contact may include, but are not limited to:
 - Custodial Services personnel
 - Dining Services personnel
 - Residence Hall Maintenance personnel
 - Division of Campus Safety personnel
 - Health & Counseling Center personnel
 - Athletics & Recreation staff
 - Fisher Early Learning Center teachers and staff
 - Ricks Center for Gifted Children teachers and staff

- Lower Contact includes faculty, staff and other personnel who have not been designated as Higher Contact.

Exceptions:

- Students enrolled in fully online programs that normally have no in-person component on campus, such as certain offerings through University College.
- Employees who are working remotely, do not come to campus, and do not have close contact with DU community members who participate in on-campus activities.
- Those individuals with University-approved exemptions or accommodations based on disability and/or religion. Please note, an accommodation or exemption may require remote work and learning.
- Individuals who have documentation of a positive Nasal Swab RT-PCR test in their medical record within the previous 90 days.

All testing (Nasal Swab RT-PCR, Salivary RT-PCR, Nasal Swab Antigen) through DU's on-campus testing program is available at no charge for students, faculty, staff and other personnel. Individual members of the campus DU community may elect to test more frequently than their required testing schedule at no charge.

Because individuals may obtain required tests at no charge on-campus, if a student, faculty or staff member chooses to comply with DU's testing requirements through their own healthcare provider, the individual is responsible for any co-pay or other out-of-pocket expense associated with such testing and must upload results from an individual Nasal Swab RT-PCR test to their MyHealth record according to the applicable schedule.

Testing Schedules

- **For Undergraduate Students Living in Congregate Housing:**
 - Testing twice per week with at least one (1) Nasal Swab RT-PCR test every two weeks.
 - The remaining three tests may be Salivary RT-PCR tests.
 - DU will assign students to a testing group, which will determine their testing days each week. For example, Group A would test in week 1 on Monday and Thursday, in week 2 on Sunday and Wednesday, and in week 3 on Saturday and Tuesday.
 - Testing schedules and testing compliance will be available on PioneerWeb.
 - In all cases, students will have a 24-hour window on either side of their testing day to complete testing and comply with testing requirements.
- **For Undergraduate Students Not Living in Congregate Housing:**
 - Testing once per week with at least one (1) Nasal Swab RT-PCR test every two weeks.
 - The alternate week test may be a Salivary RT-PCR test.
 - DU will assign students to a testing group, which will determine their testing days.
 - Testing schedules and testing compliance will be available on PioneerWeb.
 - In all cases, students will have a 24-hour window on either side of their testing day to complete testing and comply with testing requirements.
- **For Graduate Students:**
 - Testing once every other week.
 - Every other test (once per four weeks) must be the Nasal Swab RT-PCR.

- The alternate test may be a Salivary RT-PCR test.
 - DU will assign students to a testing group, which will determine their day of testing.
 - Testing schedules and testing compliance will be available on PioneerWeb.
 - In all cases, students will have a 24-hour window on either side of their testing day to complete testing and comply with testing requirements.
- **For Lower Contact Faculty, Staff and Other Personnel:**
 - Testing once every third week.
 - Every other test (once per six weeks) must be the Nasal Swab RT-PCR.
 - The alternate test may be a Salivary RT-PCR test.
 - DU will assign employees to a testing group, which will determine their day of testing.
 - Testing schedules and testing compliance will be available on PioneerWeb.
 - In all cases, individuals will have a 24-hour window on either side of their testing day to complete testing and comply with testing requirements.
- **For Higher Contact Personnel:**
 - Testing once per week.
 - Every other test (once per two weeks) must be the Nasal Swab RT-PCR.
 - The alternate test may be a Salivary RT-PCR test.
 - DU will assign these individuals to a testing group, which will determine their day of testing.
 - Testing schedules and testing compliance will be available on PioneerWeb.
 - In all cases, individuals will have a 24-hour window on either side of their testing day to complete testing and comply with testing requirements.

Collection Methods/Test Types

DU's testing program includes two collection methods and three test types:

- Sample types:
 - Nasal -- A mid-turbinate Nasal Swab RT-PCR test collected at the DU testing facility by a trained medical technician
 - Saliva -- A saliva-based test collected at various locations on campus
- Test types:
 - **Nasal Swab RT-PCR**
 - The gold standard diagnostic test for the virus that causes COVID-19;
 - Required for return to campus at the beginning of each term;
 - Required for the first two tests each term;
 - Required if any other test returns a positive result;
 - Always accepted to meet the scheduled testing requirement;
 - For undergraduates participating in on-campus activities, required at least once every other week; and
 - For graduate students, faculty, and staff participating in on-campus activities required at least once every 6 weeks (see specific variable testing schedule below).
 - **Nasal Swab Antigen**
 - Yields a quick estimate of presence/absence of the virus that causes COVID-19;
 - May be used to satisfy testing requirements for student-athletes;
 - May be used for symptomatic individuals for quicker results; and

- A positive result from a Nasal Swab Antigen test must be followed by a Nasal Swab RT-PCR test, which is the definitive diagnostic test.
- **Salivary RT-PCR**
 - Uses the same PCR methodology as the gold standard Nasal Swab RT-PCR, but with a more easily collected sample;
 - Returns results more quickly due to on-campus testing capability; and
 - May be used for periodic testing except when Nasal Swab RT-PCR is required (e.g. three of four times in a two-week period for students living in Congregate Housing, every other week for undergraduate students not living in Congregate Housing).

Results and Repeat Testing

- DU will notify individuals of their test results either through the MyHealth portal (all test results, negative and positive, regardless of test type will be viewable here) or pursuant to the [COVID-19 Positive Test or Presumed Positive Response Protocol](#).
- An individual who receives a positive test result from a Salivary RT-PCR test or a Nasal Swab Antigen test must:
 - Go to the DU testing facility for a Nasal Swab RT-PCR test within one (1) business day of receiving the positive result.
 - Enter quarantine and follow the quarantine requirements at least until receiving the results from the Nasal Swab RT-PCR test.
 - If the Nasal Swab RT-PCR test is also positive, the isolation period is calculated from the date of the individual's first positive test.
 - If the Nasal Swab RT-PCR test is negative, DU may ask the individual to consult with a physician or to repeat a test depending on the situation.

Noncompliance with Testing Requirements

- **Students**
 - For students who fail to complete their required testing on the specified schedule based on their residential status, the COVID Coordinator will issue a notice of noncompliance. Upon receipt of the notice of noncompliance, the student must:
 - Report to the DU testing facility no later than the next business day for a Nasal Swab RT-PCR test or take a Salivary RT-PCR test within 24 hours of the notice.
 - Students who do not comply with the instructions in the notice of noncompliance will:
 - Be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities ("SRR") for disciplinary action; and
 - Not be permitted to attend class in person, to visit any on-campus dining facilities, or to enter any on-campus facilities other than their own residential building prior to reporting to the DU testing facility to complete their testing requirements.
 - Students found responsible for violation of the Honor Code due to noncompliance with testing requirements may face outcomes including temporary or permanent removal from the University, temporary or permanent removal from University owned or operated housing, building access restrictions, training and other interventions.
- **Faculty**

- For faculty members who fail to complete their required testing on the specified schedule, the COVID Coordinator will issue a notice of noncompliance. Upon receipt of the notice of noncompliance, the faculty member must:
 - Report to the DU testing facility no later than the next business day for a Nasal Swab RT-PCR test.
- Faculty members who do not comply with the instructions in the notice of noncompliance will:
 - Be referred to their dean for appropriate disciplinary action, which may include a letter of reprimand, denial of building access, or recommendation of initiating a process for demotion, suspension, or termination as provided the Policies and Procedures Relating to Faculty Appointment, Promotion and Tenure; and
 - Not be permitted to attend class in person, to enter any on-campus facilities, or to be on University Premises for any purpose other than to visit the DU testing facility to complete their testing requirements.
- **Staff and Other Personnel**
 - For staff members and other personnel who fail to complete their required testing on the specified schedule, the COVID Coordinator will issue a notice of noncompliance. Upon receipt of the notice of noncompliance, the staff member or other personnel must:
 - Report to the DU testing facility no later than the next business day for a Nasal Swab RT-PCR test.
 - Staff members and other personnel who do not comply with the instructions in the notice of noncompliance will:
 - Be referred to their supervisor for appropriate disciplinary action, determined in consultation with the Division of Human Resources & Inclusive Community (HRIC) to determine appropriate corrective action, and which may include a verbal warning, written reprimand, denial of building access, or additional corrective action measures, up to and including termination of employment.
 - Not be permitted to come to work on campus, to enter any on-campus facilities, or to be on University Premises for any purpose other than to visit the DU testing facility to complete their testing requirements.