

Protocol for Returning to School

Fall 2021

The purpose of the protocol is to support higher education while minimizing the likelihood of person to person spread of COVID 19 on the campus of UAHT. UAHT administration, faculty and staff will work to be flexible and nimble while responding to new information and guidelines from the CDC, Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Department of Higher Education and the University of Arkansas System. Updates to these guidelines will be provided to students, staff and faculty directly.

Face Mask

Face Masks are required for everyone (faculty, staff, students, contractors, suppliers, vendors and visitors) while on campus, indoors. You are required to wear a face mask anytime you are within 6 feet of another individual regardless of your location. Individuals needing a mask will be provided one.

Physical Distancing

The practice of physical distancing includes but is not limited to classrooms, labs, cafeteria, common areas, entrance/exit areas of buildings and offices. Plexiglass and other barrier devices will be used in classrooms and high traffic areas when distancing is not possible. Meetings with individuals should be kept virtual whenever possible. When not possible, meetings should be in a space where 6 feet distancing is possible. Faculty may wish to meet with students and advisees in a larger space if necessary. Keeping space between one another is one of the best tools to avoid being exposed to and spreading viruses.

Utilize proper sneeze/cough etiquette. Cover your mouth and nose with a face covering. Monitor temperature and symptoms daily. Limit contact in large gatherings and where people are not practicing social distancing or wearing appropriate face coverings.

Handwashing and Disinfecting

Regular handwashing with an antibacterial soap is one of the best ways to stop the spread of germs and viruses. The CDC recommends washing hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. In addition, hand sanitizer stations are available throughout buildings and individuals are encouraged to disinfect upon entering and exiting buildings throughout the day.

Illness On Campus

If an individual displays symptoms of illness while on campus and is unable to leave, the following guidelines will be followed:

- Establish and maintain 6-foot distancing between person and other personnel
- Arrange for the affected person to be isolated in the area they are currently in or move to a known designated location for those sick
- Notify a faculty member or employee immediately of the situation who will give guidance.

COVID-19 Screening and Testing

In an effort to eliminate risk for the spread of COVID-19, all UAHT staff, faculty and students are requested to complete a daily self health screening. The self health screening questions are:

In the past 24 hours, have you experienced:

- Subjective fever (felt feverish);*
- New or worsening cough;*
- Shortness of breath;*
- Sore throat;*
- Vomiting/Diarrhea;*
- Headache*
- Muscle aches or body aches;*
- Congestion or runny nose;*
- New loss of taste or smell.*

Current temperature _____

If you answer "yes" to any of the symptoms listed above, or your temperature is 100.4 or higher, do not come to campus. Contact covid@uaht.edu (for students) or your supervisor (for employees). Self-isolate at home and contact your primary care physician's office for direction.

More information on what to do if you feel sick can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

Any student with additional questions regarding UAHT student quarantine procedures or positive COVID-19 test results should contact COVID@uaht.edu

COVID-19 Quarantine (COVID Close Contact)

Students, faculty, and staff must notify UAHT by emailing covid@uaht.edu if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has displayed symptoms. Students, faculty, and staff will be considered to have been in close contact with someone who tests positive or is symptomatic if he or she has been within six feet of that person for 15 minutes or more.

Contact tracing for those testing positive will be done in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) or possibly your state agency if you reside elsewhere. UAHT will follow current ADH guidelines to determine the appropriate length of quarantine.

Anyone identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case must self-quarantine for a 14-day period and complete daily personal health screenings through the Department of Health. The letter issued from the Department of Health will need to be provided to UAHT.

The incubation period of the virus that causes COVID-19 is up to 14 days. Therefore, the safest quarantine period would last 14 days from the most recent exposure to the positive case.

- Quarantine can end after 10 days without testing if no symptoms have occurred; or,

- Quarantine can end after 7 days if no symptoms have occurred and a COVID test returned a negative result. Note that the test sample must have been collected at least 5 days after exposure. Send-off PCR tests are preferred, but rapid PCR or antigen tests are acceptable.
- Fully vaccinated individuals are not required quarantine after close contact with COVID positive cases per current CDC and ADH guidance unless they have COVID symptoms.

COVID-19 Isolation (COVID positive)

Anyone suspected of having COVID-19 should be tested and not return to class/work until they receive their results. Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 must follow Arkansas Department of Health isolation guidelines.

Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 and who experiences symptoms may return to campus once they have satisfied a 10-day self-isolation period from the start of symptoms and are fever free for 24 hours without using fever reducing medications.

Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 and who never experienced symptoms may return to campus provided that 10 days have passed since the test, and they continue to have no symptoms.

Anyone admitted to the hospital for COVID will need to be isolated for 20 full days from the start of their symptoms.

Classroom safety protocols

Students will be requested to wear a face mask while in the classroom and inside buildings. Faculty, when delivering lecture, may wear a face shield and deliver content from behind the plexiglass barrier placed on the lecture desk. Students should be seated at least 6 feet from the lecture desk when possible. If stepping away from the desk is necessary, faculty may place a cloth face mask on in addition to the face shield.

Lectures will be recorded when possible and placed in the Blackboard shell for students who may need to view them at a different time.

Students should enter and exit the classroom in an orderly manner maintaining 6 feet distancing when possible. Students should not congregate closely in the hallways or other areas. Students must wear a mask when seated and in close proximity to other students.

Faculty should avoid handling paper whenever possible or wear a mask when doing so. UAHT recognizes that not all students have technology available to them to send documents electronically. Faculty will work with students who must turn in or receive their work in a paper format. Some scan-to-email copy machines are located on campus for student use.

Faculty will work with students who are sick, suspected of being sick or quarantined. Students who have a question regarding if they should stay home due to a possible exposure should send questions to covid@uaht.edu.

Faculty will have established regular and virtual office hours and provide their office phone number to students. In the case that an in-person meeting is needed, the faculty and student should follow

proper spacing and ppe guidelines. The meeting may take place in a separat larger room to provide safe spacing.

Faculty will maintain attendance records of all students meeting face to face.

Faculty should stay prepared to move face to face classes to an online format in the event that it is absolutly necessary. Live lectures may be presented. Students should familiarize themselves with Blackboard course navigation. The students syllabus and grades are automatically placed in the Blackboard course even though the class is offered face to face. Students may wish to submit work through online means. This will be discussed with the faculty member when classes begin.

A variety of open labs are available to students on both the Hope and Texarkana campus. Student can use these labs when needed. Students who are high risk and need special accomodations should contact our disability services director, Steve Ogden steven.ogden@uaht.edu to receive those accomodations.

Faculty Offices

During office hours, faculty doors will either remain partially open or the faculty member will be visible if the door is shut. Office hours will be clearly visible on every faculty members door and in their syllabus.

Students are encouraged to conduct as much business as possible virtually. Faculty can meet with students one on one but social distancing and proper ppe are should be maintained.

Staff Offices

Staff office doors should be kept open, depending on their location. It is always best practice to call or email the staff you wish to visit in order to set up an appointment. Appointments will be taken care of prior to walk-ins. Make sure you know the office location and wear your mask. Be diligent to maintain safe distancing while traveling on campus. If you are sick or running a fever, do not visit with any employee in person. Please contact that person by phone to see how best to take care of the situaiton.

Food Services/ Breaks /Meals

The Brickhouse Express Grill in the Student Center on the Hope campus will adhere to all requirements in the Arkansas Department of Health's *Directive on Resuming Restaurant Operations*. The full text of the directive can be viewed here:

[LINK](#)

Seating in the Student Center atrium will be arranged so that students are 6 feet apart and chairs will be removed so that dining capacity is 50% of the normal capacity. In breakrooms, high touch devices such as microwave ovens must be cleaned after each use.

Training of Employees

All employees of UAHT will be trained prior to the first day of class on signs and symptoms of COVID-19, daily self-screening for symptoms, isolation protocol for symptomatic employees or students,

physical distancing measures, disinfection measures, personal protective equipment and reporting unsafe working conditions. Department specific training will be developed by each department based on their department needs.

Business Office/Student Bills

The UAHT Business Office staff encourage employees and students to use electronic options as the preferred means of communication and interaction.

Touchless methods of making payments are available and are encouraged as the safest option for paying on your account. Online debit/credit card payments may be made by accessing MyUAHT; make debit/credit card phone payments by calling 870-722-8213; mail check payments to UAHT Business Office, PO Box 140, Hope, AR 71802 (please include your student ID#).

If you need to make a cash payment on the Hope campus, wear your mask and ring the bell located at the service window in the Administration Building. One of the business office staff will assist you. If another student is in line ahead of you, remain 6-feet away on the designated floor decal. If more than one person is ahead of you, please wait in the covered area outside the back door. Hand sanitizer is available.

If you need to make a cash payment on the Texarkana campus, wear your mask and go to the front desk of the Texarkana Campus Center. Ms. Donna Carter will assist you. If another student is in line ahead of you, wait 6-feet away. Hand sanitizer is available.

Contact Cathryn Looney, 870-722-8213, with questions about statement charges/credits or to set up an arrangement to pay. Contact Financial Aid for questions concerning the amount of the financial aid applied to your account.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

To ensure you return to a safe campus environment, we clean and disinfect all campus buildings, including classrooms, common areas, restrooms. The college has implemented specific cleaning protocols for all public areas including classrooms. Hand sanitizers have been placed in every building and classroom.

Enhanced scheduled cleaning and disinfecting of all common areas and classrooms will be performed daily by custodial services. Students may clean their learning/study area prior to use. Cleaning supplies will be available in every classroom.

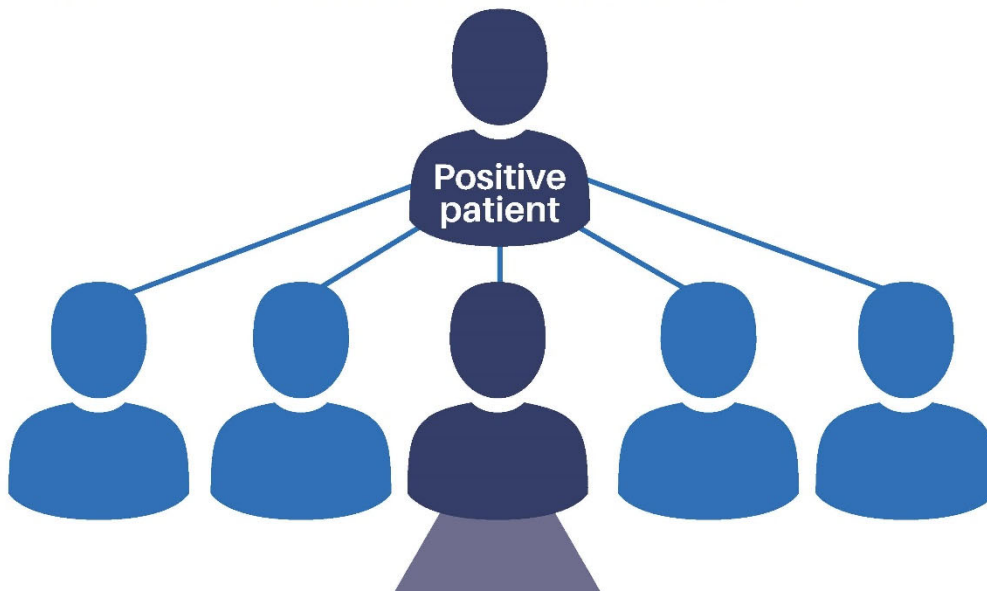
Custodial and Non-Custodial Disinfecting

Space	Surface	Disinfectant	Procedure	Who/Frequency
Classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables/Chairs • IT equipment • Keyboard/mouse • Switches • Door handles • Other 	Hard surface disinfecting wipes or spray disinfectant with paper towel	Using gloves, spray and/or wipe surface to be treated. Use enough wetting to allow surface to stay wet for manufacturer's instructions	Non-Custodial Before each use Custodial Daily clean and disinfect
Conference, copy and break rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables/Chairs • IT equipment • Switches • Door handles • Printers • Appliances • Other 	Hard surface disinfecting wipes or spray disinfectant with paper towel	Using gloves, spray and/or wipe surface to be treated. Use enough wetting to allow surface to stay wet for manufacturer's instructions	Non-Custodial After each use Custodial Daily clean and disinfect
Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables/Chairs • IT equipment • Switches • Door handles • Other touched surfaces 	Hard surface disinfecting wipes or spray disinfectant with paper towel	Using gloves, spray and/or wipe surface to be treated. Use enough wetting to allow surface to stay wet for manufacturer's instructions	Non-Custodial At the start of each workday and then as needed. Custodial Remove trash and clean door handles daily only. Floors weekly
Lobbies and Public Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables/Chairs • Switches • Door handles • High touch surfaces • Other 	Hard surface disinfecting wipes or spray disinfectant with paper towel	Using gloves, spray and/or wipe surface to be treated. Use enough wetting to allow surface to stay wet for manufacturer's instructions	Custodial Daily clean and disinfect
Bathrooms Stairwells Elevators	Custodial Team Members – Daily clean/disinfect			

COVID-19 Contact Tracing



Who is considered a contact?



Contact tracing focuses on close contacts who were:



With the patient
while they were
infectious.



Within 6 feet
of the patient.



For more than
15 minutes.

Patients are considered infectious 48 hours before symptoms began or before the positive test was collected, if the person never developed symptoms.

www.healthy.arkansas.gov