Capital’s COVID Health and Wellness Policies

Monitoring and managing COVID-19 at the University is essential to creating a safe and healthy environment for our entire university community. Capital has developed a comprehensive health strategy, which utilizes diagnostic and surveillance testing, daily monitoring of symptoms, quarantine and isolation protocols, and contact tracing of close contacts for positive cases.

TESTING

The University’s testing program consists of three parts: 1) baseline diagnostic test for all residential students prior to moving in to the University housing and residence halls; 2) diagnostic tests for any symptomatic individuals; 3) surveillance testing conducted every week throughout the semester.

1) Baseline Diagnostic Testing

Prompt identification and isolation of positive individuals on campus and their contacts is necessary to mitigate the spread of the virus and ensure the health and safety of the Capital community. Therefore, all residential students are required to have a COVID-19 diagnostic test prior to coming to live on campus to establish a baseline. Daily monitoring of symptoms, and testing of individuals who become symptomatic is also required.

How to Get a Test

- Locations: Testing locations throughout Ohio can be located through the Ohio Department of Health website: https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/testing-ch-centers/.
- Several retail providers nationwide are conducting testing, such as CVS, Kroger, RiteAid, and Walmart.
- You may also visit your personal healthcare provider for a test.

Please note: Diagnostic testing is used to determine if an individual is currently infected, whereas the antibody test is used to detect antibodies to COVID-19 from prior infection. The University requires the nasopharyngeal specimen collection and RT-PCR molecular testing for COVID-19. Please be sure to request this method of diagnostic testing.

When to get a test

- Diagnostic COVID-19 testing must occur within 7 days prior to moving in to your University-owned residence, with the optimal time being 3 days prior to move in, although this may not be feasible due to delays some providers are experiencing in returning results.
- Students who are in University housing before August 26th will be provided diagnostic COVID-19 testing on campus through our external provider.
How to submit your results

- Residential students must provide their COVID-19 diagnostic testing results to get their room keys. Results can be turned in during the move-in process. Or, residential students can submit their COVID-19 diagnostic testing results to the Center for Health and Wellness via email (chw@capital.edu) or fax (614-236-6980) prior to their scheduled move-in date.
- Residential students whose test results are positive should not come to campus on their scheduled move-in date but should contact the Center for Health and Wellness (chw@capital.edu) to receive a telehealth visit, guidance for next steps, and information on when they can safely come to campus.

2) Diagnostic Testing for Symptomatic and Exposed Individuals

All students, faculty and staff are required to monitor their symptoms daily. Each person must answer the questions on the University’s symptom tracker on any day you plan to be on campus and receive clearance through the survey to come to campus. If an individual develops symptoms of COVID-19, or are exposed to someone with COVID-19, they should not go to in-person classes, activities, or on-campus work.

Students with symptoms should:

- Contact the Center for Health and Wellness, at chw@capital.edu, for a telehealth visit with one of the medical providers.
- Follow the advice of the medical professional and obtain a diagnostic test, if recommended.
- Students awaiting test results will be required to quarantine.
- Residential students who test positive for COVID-19 are encouraged to return home, if possible. For those residential students who cannot return home, the University will provide alternative housing for those that test positive for COVID-19 and must isolate on-campus until cleared.
- Non-residential students who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate at their home, and continue to monitor their symptoms until cleared to return.
- Students are required to notify the University of positive test results and to comply with isolation directives from their healthcare provider.

Faculty and staff who develop symptoms of COVID-19 should not come to campus, contact their primary healthcare provider, follow the advice of the medical professional and obtain a diagnostic test, if recommended, isolate at home until cleared to return, and continue to monitor their symptoms.

- Employees must also inform their immediate supervisor and Human Resources (hr@capital.edu) that they have developed symptoms, and if they receive a positive test
Positive test results of students, faculty and staff will be forwarded to the appropriate health authority and referred for contact tracing through the University’s contact tracing team.

3) **Surveillance Testing**

Throughout the semester, the University will conduct surveillance testing to monitor COVID-19 in random samples of asymptomatic students, faculty and staff. Targeted testing may also be employed should COVID-19 hotspots be identified.

A surveillance testing program selects random samples of students, faculty and staff to be tested for COVID-19, regardless of whether they have a known exposure to COVID or are asymptomatic. Surveillance testing allows the University to make inferences about the level of spread in the University population and to identify asymptomatic cases for isolation.

Random samples of students, faculty and staff will be selected on a weekly basis. Individuals who are selected for the surveillance testing program will be contacted through their University email and will be provided information on the details for their test. The University has contracted with an external vendor to provide the nasopharyngeal specimen collection and RT-PCR molecular testing for COVID-19 virus at no cost to the individuals selected for testing.

Test results will be provided to the medical professionals working with the University’s COVID Response Team and privacy requirements will be followed. Negative test results will be communicated back to individuals through their Capital email. Positive results will be communicated by a health practitioner via telephone and will include directives for isolation.

The following are qualified reasons an individual may opt out of the testing requirement:

- They have a disability that would physically preclude them from having the test done.
- They prefer to be tested by another source within a week, before or after, their assigned time. Capital will not reimburse for testing done at alternative facilities. The test results must be shared with Capital.
- They are currently sick and unable to get to the testing facility.
- If a student is taking all virtual courses, or the faculty/staff member is working remotely, and will not be on campus during the semester.
- If the individual has been selected for testing in the same semester within one week of their first assigned test.

The University will cover the cost of required surveillance testing for students, faculty and staff that is conducted through the University’s contracted external vendor.

Any member of the Capital community who develops symptoms of COVID-19, or who becomes aware that they have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, should never seek COVID-19 testing from the University’s surveillance testing process. Instead,
students should contact the Center for Health and Wellness (chw@capital.edu); employees should contact their primary healthcare provider.

The University does not anticipate having to limit testing, however if testing supplies become limited, tests for symptomatic individuals will be prioritized. The University may adapt and change its approach based on evolving information and guidance from health authorities.

Compliance with the testing program, and with quarantine and isolation protocols is expected as part of Capital’s approach to keeping our university community safe, and is expected as one of the conditions for returning to campus. If a student refuses to comply with testing, and does not have a qualifying reason to opt out, the student may be required to take their classes remotely and may no longer qualify for student housing. If an employee refuses to comply, and does not have a qualifying reason to opt out, they will be sent home and disciplinary action may be taken if necessary.

**Reporting of Testing Outcomes**
The University will report COVID-19 testing information, including the numbers of tests and positive and negative results, through a public-facing dashboard made available to all. While it will not reveal individual or specific location data that could compromise privacy, the dashboard will share general community-level disease prevalence indicators.

**DAILY SYMPTOM MONITORING AND SELF-SCREENING REQUIREMENTS**
All Capital community members will be required to conduct a daily symptom monitoring screen using a Qualtrics questionnaire before coming to work on campus, going to in-person classes, or participating in any on-campus meetings or events. Symptom screening questions will reflect current CDC guidelines and be updated accordingly. Read the [complete list of up-to-date symptoms](#).

Daily monitoring of symptoms will include:
- Fever of 100 degrees or higher
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea