

Return to Campus Schedule

Our plan is based on recent guidelines and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and consultation with external subject matter experts, including those from the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). While this plan represents our best thinking at the current time, we recognize that the prevailing conditions may change and that circumstances beyond our control may cause TU to modify these plans or deviate from them. We will continue to work closely with local and state officials and monitor national and global events to make modifications to this plan as appropriate.

Two guiding principles underlie this plan: (1) ensure the health and safety of everyone in the University community (students, faculty, staff, visitors), and (2) enable students to continue to progress toward their academic, career, and professional goals.

Tuskegee University's Fall 2023 semester classes will begin Monday August 21, 2023. TU serves three broad groups of students: distance learners who engage in online instruction (except for some in-person internship and residency experiences in some special programs), non-residential students who attend classes on the TU campus, and residential students who attend classes in person.

Depending on their course schedules, TU campus students will begin arriving on campus with the start of Fall classes on or after August 15, 2023.

On-campus students will begin arriving on campus in stages. For example, some student-athletes and students in specific academic programs may be instructed to come at different times in August 2023. Residential students will be notified about arrival times by the Office of Student Affairs.

TU campus students with active cases of the COVID-19 virus may not come to campus until their isolation period has ended as instructed by their local health department and physician and as approved by student affairs. You may refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [isolation and quarantine guidelines](#). Students who have been in recent contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 and who are themselves symptomatic may not come to campus until their quarantine period has ended as instructed by their local health department and physician and as approved by student health services.

COVID-19 Vaccines

All employees must be COVID-19 vaccinated before the start of the Fall 2023 semester. Employees must complete their vaccinations before coming to campus. Vaccine availability in the United States can be accessed at [Vaccines.gov](#) and through local health departments. The Tuskegee Health Disparities Diagnostic Center is a vaccine storage site, and vaccination clinics will be available each month on campus once the semester begins. Employees will submit

proof of vaccine that includes their name, type of vaccine, and vaccination dates by emailing a copy of their COVID-19 vaccination record to reportcovid19@tuskegee.edu.

Employees may apply for a medical or religious exemption for any required vaccine, including the COVID-19 vaccine, by completing the form available through human resources. Exemption requests must be submitted by July 15, 2023. Any employee who receives an exemption and is not COVID-19 vaccinated must do the following:

- Complete a COVID-19 liability waiver
- Participate in COVID-19 testing before the start of the Spring semester
- Participate in weekly COVID-19 surveillance testing throughout the semester
- Quarantine if they have been in high-risk contact with someone known to have COVID-19 as instructed by the local health department and the COVID-19 Recovery Management Center (CRMC).

COVID-19 boosters are now widely available and recommended by the CDC for adults six months after completing a Moderna or Pfizer vaccination series or two months after completing a Johnson & Johnson vaccine vaccination. Please consult with your physician or medical professional about receiving a COVID-19 vaccine booster.

COVID-19 Testing

All campus-based employees and students at the start of the Fall 2023 semester must submit a negative COVID-19 test result 10 days before the beginning of the semester (August 14, 2023) or ten days before their first day on campus, whichever is earlier. Test results should be sent to reportcovid19@tuskegee.edu.

Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, even if they have been vaccinated, should seek medical attention, and be tested for COVID-19 if prescribed. They should not come to campus until authorized by their physician or student health services. If you have questions or concerns about a potential exposure to COVID-19, CDC has [guidance on evaluating the exposure](#) that you may find helpful. We will no longer require students, faculty, and staff to report COVID-19-positive tests to reportcovid19@tuskegee.edu.

If any employee or student tests positive for COVID-19, they should take the [precautions outlined by the CDC](#) and will be required to follow the University's *Isolation and Quarantine Policy*. This policy can be found under University COVID-19 Resources accessed at <https://www.tuskegee.edu/coronavirus-resources>. Students will no longer automatically receive monitoring during isolation. Students who need additional support are encouraged to access care through [Student Health Services](#).

Campus-based Instruction and Course Delivery

The University's in-seat attendance policy applies to all students except for those students who have selected to attend classes an online only course or due to illness. This includes students who have been directed to isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19 (typically 5-10 days).

For students who Student Affairs have directed to attend class remotely, the instructor must adapt pedagogy, learning activities, assignments, exams, or quizzes to accommodate the student during the class sessions.

For students who are not enrolled in an online only course:

- The student must provide the instructor with prior notification if the student cannot participate in class in person on a given day.
- A student with an excused absence may attend the class remotely. Still, the instructor is not required to adapt pedagogy, learning activities, assignments, exams, or quizzes to accommodate the student during the class session.
- If a student becomes ill before the beginning of class on a given day, the student may attend the course remotely. Still, the instructor is not required to adapt pedagogy, learning activities, assignments, exams, or quizzes to accommodate the student during the class session.
- The instructor may require a student to provide medical documentation or notice from the Dean of Students to grant the student an excused absence due to illness.
- The instructor may lower a student's class attendance/participation grade due to an unexcused absence even if the student attends the class remotely.

Students eligible to participate in clinical rotations, internships, and other community placements will be provided with detailed information by program directors about the personal protective equipment (PPE) they will need to participate in the experience at a particular site safely.

Faculty and other employees should always wear a face mask or covering in classrooms and in all indoor public spaces. Students must wear face masks or face coverings in classrooms and public indoor spaces if required by the faculty member coordinating that course.

Disability Services will work with students with an increased health risk to secure accommodations for virtual learning.

Cleaning

Hand hygiene supplies are available in all campus buildings and common areas. All common areas will be cleaned daily. Surfaces frequently touched by multiple people, such as door handles, bathroom surfaces, and handrails will be cleaned with soap and water or another detergent at least daily when facilities are in use.

Supplies will be available so that certain high-use surfaces and objects in public spaces, such as recreation equipment, telephone, shared printers and copiers, and point of sale keypads can be

cleaned and disinfected before each use. If you notice that sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer, or other supplies have been depleted, please request additional supplies from facilities, and they will be replenished.

While cleaning alone does not kill germs, it reduces the number of germs on a surface. Cleaning supplies will be available in all classrooms. Upon classroom arrival, faculty and students are strongly encouraged to wipe the surface areas of their desks, chairs, podiums, etc.

Student Life

The Office of Student Life will coordinate activities. A mix of in-person and technology-based platforms will be used. Student-based campus organizations will receive further guidance on student organization meetings and programming guidelines from the Director of Student Life.

Intramural sports activities will also comply with athletics best practices. Supplies will be available so that equipment and surfaces can be cleaned and disinfected before each use and that hand hygiene can be practiced before and after activities.

Travel

Travel for TU business or activities may be authorized for admissions, recruiting, athletic, and professional development purposes. Only those employees that are fully vaccinated will be approved for university travel. All international travel is suspended. Special circumstances that require international travel of faculty or students for TU business must be pre-authorized by President.

Visitors and Events on Campus

Our campus will remain open for Fall 2023. Admissions and recruiting visits are welcomed and should be arranged by appointment. Other visitors may come to campus for approved TU business or activities.

Athletics

The Athletic Department will communicate with student-athletes separately on measures to ensure their health and safety.

TU and the CIAA Conference plan for all athletic teams to compete during traditional season times throughout the academic year. Schedules will be released as they become available. At this time, visitors are not allowed for athletic events on campus. Although limited availability may be permitted for specific indoor events, masks or face coverings are required for all visitors regardless of their vaccine status. Additional attendance policies for competitive athletic events may be impacted by campus, city, county, and state conditions and guidelines. As many competitive events as possible will be broadcast for the live virtual viewing. Athletic-related questions can be directed to Athletic Director Reginald Ruffin.

Housing

This section pertains only to students living on campus in residence halls.

All residence halls have been cleaned and prepared for student arrival. Training on public health measures and signs/symptoms of COVID-19 will be provided for all live-in professionals, including residence directors, residence assistants, security personnel, and others in similar roles. Residential students will receive specific instructions on cleaning, PPE, and other supplies to bring with them to campus.

To minimize the possibility of dispersing viruses through the air, dirty laundry items should not be shaken. Items should be washed as appropriate with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Clean and disinfect hampers or other carts for transporting laundry.

Students who are symptomatic of COVID-19 and awaiting test results will be required to quarantine while they await test results, as will their roommate. Any students who are COVID-19 positive will be isolated in their dorm or at home, depending on the individual and campus circumstances at the time. Students in campus isolation or quarantine will receive telehealth monitoring, and appropriate supplies.

Residential students may have guests in their rooms and lounge areas. Residence hall visitation among residential students is permitted and rules governing the policies for residence hall visitation can be found in the TU Housing policies distributed by Student Affairs.

Food Services

All diners are encouraged to wash their hands prior to entry and to use hand sanitizer stationed at facility entrances and exits. Food service workers will maintain six (6) feet of distance between themselves and diners to the extent possible. UC will be offering grab and go food options at specific campus locations. Food delivery services will be provided for those in campus isolation or quarantine.

Health Care Services

Employees and students must inform Student Health Services if they are feeling ill and/or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

In the event that a health situation warrants COVID-19-related intervention, it will be referred to TU's CRMC. The CRMC will function as a point of contact for students, faculty, and staff for any COVID-19 questions, and to direct services that are needed for students that are in isolation or quarantine, including health care provider connections for testing, diagnosis and treatment, contact tracing, and counseling services.

Employees and students are encouraged to use in-person or telehealth services if they are not feeling well or if their temperature is 100.4°F or above. TU offers student counseling services through the Student Health Services.

Communication

This plan has been communicated to all TU employees and students via email and is posted on the TU Coronavirus website. Virtual Town Hall meetings for employees, and for students and families, will be held the week of August 14, 2023, at the start of the Spring 2023 semester. Date, time, and access information for all Virtual Town Hall meetings will be distributed via email.

TU will provide regular update, reminder, and myth-rumor busting communications throughout the semester including:

- Weekly email communications to students from the Office of Student Affairs
- Periodic email communications to faculty from the Provost Office
- Periodic email communications to employees from the Human Resources
- Periodic email communications to the TU community from the President

Emergency Operations

TU has an Emergency Response Plan and a Pandemic Response Plan. Both have been updated and will be part of the documentation and training provided to all employees and students.

The Pandemic Response Plan includes information on the following:

- Shifting to distance learning and telework processes
- Plans for housing students who cannot leave campus
- Plans for quarantining exposed or isolating positive-tested students
- Plans for campus closure