

UTHSC Office of Research COVID-19 Update August 2021

In response to rising numbers of COVID-19 cases, and the virulence of the Delta variant, the Office of Research provides the following information and guidelines to the research community:

Precautions:

- Perform a health self-check before coming to campus. Individuals experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#) must remain off campus.
- In accordance with the Chancellor's [August 2, 2021, directive](#) all personnel on campus must wear facemasks while indoors.
- The Chancellor's August 2, 2021, directive requires individuals to maintain social distancing while eating and drinking on campus. This directive must be observed.
- Properly fitted and worn N95 respirators (masks) provide greater protection than cloth or paper masks against the Delta variant. Medical evaluation and fit testing is NOT required unless wearing an N95 is normally required for your duties. N95 respirators provide the most protection when the user is familiar with their use and limitations (training is accessible through UTHSC Blackboard. Email labsafety@uthsc.edu a request to access this content).
- Vaccinated individuals may become infected and transmit the virus themselves. Even those who have been vaccinated must minimize risk by applying appropriate precautions**.

Procedures for employees:

- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate or quarantine in accordance with [current public health guidelines](#) (10-day self-isolation for positive cases).
- Individuals who have a close contact exposure and are unvaccinated must self-quarantine (14-day quarantine for close contact exposures, 24-day quarantine for household contacts with continuing exposure).
- Notify UTHSC Human Resources, using the [HR Notice of COVID-19 Occurrence Form](#), if you have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, if you are required to self-isolate or quarantine, or if you live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

Procedures for Supervisors:

- Ensure all personnel are aware of and comply with campus COVID-19 guidelines including the reporting of cases through the [HR Notice of COVID-19 Occurrence Form](#).
- Ensure that personnel observe the requirement to remain off campus if they are exhibiting



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COVID-19 symptoms.

- If a COVID-19 case occurs within your work group, Human Resources will identify close contacts and inform those individuals and their supervisor about the exposure. These individuals will be required to quarantine if they have not been fully vaccinated.
- Personnel are encouraged to exercise the ability to telecommute as permitted by your applicable unit and encouraged to use technology to substitute for in-person meetings.

**As a critical notation to this message, UTHSC leadership strongly recommends that all employees be vaccinated for their own safety and out of consideration for others with whom they come in contact.