

From: [SOM Administration](#)
To: SOMALL-L@LISTSERV.TULANE.EDU
Subject: Tulane School of Medicine Return-to-Work Update - Covid-19 Testing for Employees
Date: Friday, May 8, 2020 6:03:01 PM
Attachments: [School of Medicine COVID Testing Policy.pdf](#)
[Return-to-Work Policy After a Positive Test Result.pdf](#)
[COVID testing Screening Questionnaire.pdf](#)



Tulane University School of Medicine Workforce Update

Friday, 8 May 2020

TULANE COVID-19

Tulane School of Medicine COVID-19 Testing Policy of Employees

To maintain an optimally safe campus, the School of Medicine will offer all SOM employees symptom screening and nasal swab testing for COVID-19 as a part of the school's overall plan to allow our employees to return to campus. The SOM has taken a number of measures, recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to help protect employees against this virus, which include requiring face covering when in public, a detailed review of workspaces to ensure and encourage social or physical distancing of 6', and increased cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces.

While many persons with COVID-19 have fever, cough or other symptoms, a minority have no symptoms (asymptomatic), and then develop symptoms later. Thus, a combination of symptom screening and testing may be optimal. The SOM recommends that all personnel should continue to do daily symptom checks/temperature checks, as outlined in the attached screening questionnaire. If positive, they should stay at home and contact their healthcare provider or the Wellness Clinic 504-988-4325 (HEAL) or WellnessClinic@tulane.edu. The University's leave policy can be found [here](#).

Antibody testing (serology) may be incorporated in determining who is immune to reinfection – current tests are in the process of being validated in larger numbers of persons, and scientists are assessing whether these tests correlate with actual protection. If and when the data support the accuracy and use of serologic testing, this will be incorporated into our testing policy.

SOM will offer testing in a phased approach to all of our faculty, residents, students and staff. This recommendation has been made and approved in consultation with the CDC guidelines, SOM experts, and the University.

1. Phase 1 will include: Clinical Faculty; Residents and Fellows; Medical Students; TUMG Clinic staff; Clinical research staff.
2. Phase 2 will include: Non-clinical and Research faculty; Research staff, post-doctoral fellows, graduate and master students, and technicians.
3. Phase 3 will include: Administrative staff.

The SOM COVID-19 testing station will begin testing May 18th in Hutchinson 1810 (previously the Bookstore). Nurses will be available to collect nasal swabs for testing Monday – Friday from 7 - 10 am and 12 – 2 pm.

Appointments for testing should be scheduled through the Occupational Health Clinic at pctest@tulane.edu

Each department will be assigned specific days for testing. Department Chairs and Administrators are asked to disseminate the information to all in their department regarding the schedule for an appointment. Everyone that presents for testing should be wearing an appropriate face cloth or mask, as recommended by the CDC, and bring the completed screening questionnaire (attached).

If an employee tests positive, referral will be made to the Tulane Living Well Clinic for evaluation and counseling. The employee will be asked to isolate themselves at home and follow the CDC home isolation guidelines: [What To Do If You Are Sick](#). The Return to Work Policy is attached. Contact tracing will be conducted with a focus on employees at work who were in contact with the positive employee during the 14 days prior to diagnosis.

If negative, repeat testing may be done at a later date. There are currently no guidelines or data to guide optimal timing of repeat testing.

Note that this policy is for SOM only. Further communication regarding testing protocols for the rest of the University will be forthcoming.

L. Lee Hamm, MD
Senior Vice President & Dean, SOM
James R. Doty Distinguished Professor & Chair

Patrick Delafontaine, MD
Executive Dean
Professor of Medicine, Pharmacology & Physiology

Frequently Asked Questions: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Colleges and Universities: Plan, Prepare, and Respond: [CDC Guidance for Colleges and Universities](#)