

# COVID-19

## COVID-19 Management Protocol for UAMS Students and Employees

DECEMBER 29, 2021



The following updates to the COVID-19 Management Protocol for UAMS Students and Employees are based on the CDC recommendations (dated 12/27/2021) and are due to the following:

1. the presence of the highly transmissible COVID-19 Omicron Variant in Arkansas
2. the ongoing presence of the COVID-19 Delta Variant in Arkansas
3. a low COVID-19 vaccination rate in Arkansas – at last report, less than 51% of Arkansans are fully vaccinated
4. increased number of patients hospitalized in Arkansas due to COVID-19 disease
5. number of fully vaccinated UAMS healthcare providers testing positive for COVID-19

### **Definitions:**

**Fully Vaccinated** – a person is fully vaccinated 14 days after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of 2 dose of an mRNA vaccine (such as Pfizer) and less than 6 months from their second dose or 14 days and less than six months after a single-dose (J&J) vaccine.

**Boosted** – a person is boosted 14 days after receiving a 3<sup>rd</sup> COVID-19 vaccination.

**Incompletely Vaccinated** – a person is incompletely vaccinated when they have not received a booster dose 6 months after their 2<sup>nd</sup> mRNA vaccine or 2 months after their single dose vaccine (J&J)

**Quarantine Away From** – UAMS personnel must use a bedroom and bathroom not used by the COVID-19 positive individual. Additionally, the UAMS personnel must not share common household space with the COVID-19 positive individual – kitchen, living room, etc. Each person must take meals separately in their own room/space.

**COVID-19 exposure** – contact (a distance less than 6 feet) with a COVID-19 positive individual for a prolonged period without Personal Protective Equipment (at a minimum: mask and approved eye protection).

**Prolonged Period** – a cumulative time period of 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period.

**UAMS Healthcare Provider (HCP)** – a UAMS employee who provides direct or indirect care or services to UAMS patients. This definition may include: Environmental Services, Supply Chain, UAMS Police, Nutritional Services, etc.

### **COVID-19 Management Protocol for UAMS Students and Employees**

#### **A. International Travel**

**ALL UAMS** students and employees returning from international travel, regardless of vaccination status, are **REQUIRED** to undergo COVID-19 PCR testing upon arrival before returning to a UAMS campus or work.

#### **B. Out-of-State Travel**

COVID-19 testing IS NOT required after out-of-state travel.

### **Work Restrictions for UAMS Students and Employees with COVID-19 Exposures**

#### **C. Boosted or fully vaccinated**

1. A UAMS student or employee with a confirmed COVID-19 exposure are not excluded from work, but will be monitored for symptoms via the daily symptom survey and will be conditional in the SEHS system for 10 days from last exposure if they
  - a. remain asymptomatic after the exposure **and**
  - b. do not live in the same household as the COVID-19 positive individual they were exposed to **or**
  - c. live in the same household but can **'Quarantine Away From'** the COVID-19 positive individual while they are infectious (generally 5 days from symptom onset).
  - d. PCR testing is required at the onset of any symptoms.
2. Boosted or fully vaccinated personnel with a confirmed COVID-19 exposure **ARE** required to quarantine if they live in the same household but **cannot 'Quarantine Away From'** the COVID-19 positive individual during the time that individual is considered infectious (generally 5 days from symptom onset).
  - a. Students or employees will complete the daily symptom survey and be conditional in the SEHS system for 15 days.
  - b. PCR testing is required
    - i. At the onset of any symptoms
    - ii. Student or Employee Quarantine Day 5
    - iii. If negative, return to campus/work on Student or Employee Day 6

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### D. **Unvaccinated or Incompletely Vaccinated Students and Employees**

1. Healthcare providers (HCP) with a confirmed COVID-19 exposure who have not been vaccinated or are incompletely vaccinated are not excluded from work, but must undergo COVID-19 PCR testing on Days 0, 3, and 6 post-exposure.
2. HCP who decline to continue to work with testing and all other UAMS employees will quarantine for 5 days, with COVID-19 PCR test on Day 5. If negative, and the employee is asymptomatic, or with improving symptoms the employee may return to work on Day 6.
3. All must complete the daily symptom survey and be conditional in the SEHS system for 10 days.
4. If the person lives in the same household as the COVID-19 positive individual, the UAMS person **must** be able to **'Quarantine Away From'** the COVID-19 positive individual during the time that individual is considered infectious (generally 5 days from symptom onset).
5. If the person cannot **'Quarantine Away From'** the COVID-19 positive individual, their 5-day quarantine will begin at the end of the COVID-19 positive individual's quarantine. Personnel will complete the daily symptom survey and be conditional in the SEHS system for 15 days
  - a. PCR testing is required
    - i. At the onset of any symptoms
    - ii. Student or Employee Quarantine Day 5
    - iii. If negative, return to campus/work on Student or Employee Day 6
6. A Student Employee Health Services (SEHS) representative will manage and monitor employees.
7. For personnel living outside Little Rock, PCR testing options may be available at Regional Program campuses or local hospitals. Personnel should discuss alternative PCR testing locations with SEHS.

### E. **Work Restrictions for all UAMS Students and Employees with COVID-19 Infection**

1. All employees will quarantine for a minimum of 5 days from the date of the positive test or onset of symptoms, whichever occurs first, and may return to work on Day 6 if asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic with improving symptoms (no red flag symptoms).
2. The Student or Employee will be required to complete the daily symptom survey and be conditional in the SEHS system for 10 days.

### **Student and Employee Requirements**

Students and Employees will:

- a. Complete the SEHS symptom surveys every day as directed
- b. Present to the UAMS COVID-19 Drive-Thru or other SEHS approved location as directed by SEHS for COVID-19 testing
- c. Leave work immediately if their test result is positive or they develop **any** symptoms
- d. Report **ANY** symptom development **IMMEDIATELY to SEHS** and their supervisor. Patient care activities should cease, and SEHS contacted even if mild symptoms develop
- e. Adhere to all UAMS policies for Personal Protective Equipment Use, and Hand Hygiene at all times
- f. Take breaks and meals in isolation and not with other staff members while conditional with survey

### **Any personnel, regardless of vaccine status, reporting significant or ongoing symptoms on Daily Screening Survey**

Will be:

1. Evaluated for COVID-19 PCR testing
2. Placed in quarantine per above protocols until test results or symptom improvement

**Failure to meet any of the above requirements may result in possible disciplinary action due to non-compliance.**

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### SUMMARY

#### Work Restrictions for UAMS Healthcare Students and Employees with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure

Based on CDC recommendations dated 12/23/2021 and 12/27/21.

Work Restrictions for all UAMS Employees with SARS-CoV-2 Infection regardless of Vaccine Status	
Restrictions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Quarantine for 5 days, return to work Day 6 if asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic with improving symptoms and no red flag symptoms.</li><li>Daily symptom survey completion and conditional in the SEHS system for 10 days.</li></ul>	

Work Restrictions for Asymptomatic UAMS Students and Employees with SARS-CoV-2 Exposures	
Vaccination Status	Restrictions
Boosted or Fully Vaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No work restrictions.</li><li>Daily symptom survey completion and conditional in the SEHS system for 10 days.</li></ul>
Unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated <b>Healthcare Providers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No work restrictions with testing (PCR) on Days 0, 3, and 6 post-exposure. Daily symptom survey completion and conditional in the SEHS system for 10 days</li></ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Quarantine for 5 days with PCR testing on Day 5. Return to work with negative PCR. Daily symptom survey for 10 days. Not Cleared in SEHS system until negative PCR result, then conditional through Day 10.</li></ul>
All other unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated employees ( <b>not HCP</b> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Quarantine for 5 days with PCR testing on Day 5. Return to work with negative PCR. Daily symptom survey for 10 days. Not Cleared in SEHS system until negative PCR result, then conditional through Day 10.</li></ul>

For more detail see CDC recommendations (12/23/2021) for [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html) at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html>.

**See CDC News release (12/27/2021)** CDC Updates and Shortens Recommended Isolation and Quarantine Period for the General Population.