

COVID-19

COVID-19 Management Protocol for UAMS Personnel

JULY 14, 2021



The following updates to the COVID-19 Management Protocol for UAMS Personnel are based on CDC recommendations and are due to the following:

1. a high prevalence of the highly transmissible COVID-19 Delta Variant in Arkansas
2. a low COVID-19 vaccination rate in Arkansas – at last report, less than 40% of Arkansans are fully vaccinated
3. increased number of patients hospitalized in Arkansas due to COVID-19 disease
4. number of fully vaccinated UAMS employees testing positive for COVID-19

Definitions:

UAMS Personnel – all UAMS employees, non-employees, and students.

Fully Vaccinated – a person is fully vaccinated 14 days after 2nd dose of 2 dose vaccine (such as Pfizer or 14 days after a single-dose vaccine).

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 individual must take meals separately in their own room/space.

COVID-19 exposure – contact 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.

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A. International Travel

ALL UAMS personnel 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.

C. Fully vaccinated personnel or personnel recovered from a COVID-19 infection in the past 3 months (documented COVID-19 PCR test)

1. Fully vaccinated personnel with a confirmed COVID-19 exposure are not required to quarantine, but will be monitored for symptoms via the daily symptom survey and will be conditional in the 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 during the time they are infectious (generally 10 days from symptom onset).
 - d. Required PCR testing
 - i. At the onset of any symptoms
 - ii. A positive PCR requires a minimum 10-day quarantine from the date of the test or onset of symptoms whichever is later

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2. 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 10 days from symptom onset). Personnel will complete the daily symptom survey for 24 days.

- a. Required PCR testing

- i. At the onset of any symptoms
- ii. Quarantine Day 5
- iii. If negative, retest on Day 10
- iv. If negative, the person may return to campus/or work on Day 11 with monitoring and conditional in the system with additional testing on Days 15 and 20
- v. A positive PCR requires a minimum 10-day quarantine from the date of the test or onset of symptoms whichever is later

D. **Unvaccinated or Incompletely Vaccinated Personnel**

1. Personnel with a confirmed COVID-19 exposure who have not been vaccinated or are not fully vaccinated **ARE** required to quarantine for 14 days from the last date of exposure. Personnel will complete the daily symptom survey for 14 days.

2. 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 10 days from symptom onset). Personnel will complete the daily symptom survey for 14 days.

- a. Required PCR testing

- i. At the onset of any symptoms
- ii. Quarantine Day 5
- iii. Quarantine Day 10
- iv. If negative, return to campus/work on Day 11
- v. A positive PCR requires a 10-day quarantine from the date of the test or onset of symptoms whichever is later. Personnel may return to campus/or work on day 11 if their symptoms are improving and they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of antipyretics.

3. If the person cannot **'Quarantine Away From'** the COVID-19 positive individual, their 14-day quarantine will begin at the end of the COVID-19 positive individual's quarantine. Personnel will complete the daily symptom survey for 24 days

- a. Required PCR testing

- i. At the onset of any symptoms
- ii. Quarantine Day 15 and 20
- iii. If negative, return to campus/work on Day 21
- iv. A positive PCR requires a 10-day quarantine from the date of the test or onset of symptoms whichever is later

E. **Placement on the 72-hour Testing Protocol**

1. An unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated direct patient care or mission critical employees with unprotected exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual, who was not a spouse, partner, or child living in the same household, may be placed on a 72-hour testing protocol.
2. On this protocol, the employee may continue to work if they
 - a. Remain asymptomatic
 - b. Undergo PCR COVID-19 testing every 72 hours on Days 0, 3, 6, 9, post-exposure.

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- c. Remain COVID-19 PCR negative
 - d. Complete the SEHS Symptom Survey daily, every day for 10 days, whether they are working or not
3. 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.
 4. A Student Employee Health Services (SEHS) representative will manage and monitor employees. Employees will be required to comply with the requirements outlined below.

Employee Requirement

Employees will:

- a. Complete the SEHS symptom survey every day (working or not)
 - b. Report to work using regular screening entrances, wearing a medical-grade facemask instead of a cloth mask. UAMS will supply a medical-grade mask to the employee
 - c. Present to the UAMS COVID-19 Drive-Thru or other SEHS approved location as directed by SEHS for COVID-19 testing on Days 0, 3, 6, and 9.
 - d. The UAMS drive-thru area will open to employees for COVID-19 testing Monday through Friday at 7:30 am.
 - e. Complete testing before 10 am, if testing at the UAMS COVID-19 Drive-Thru
 - f. Leave work immediately if their test result is positive or develop **any** symptoms
 - g. Report ANY symptom development IMMEDIATELY to SEHS and their supervisor. Patient care activities should cease, and SEHS contacted even if mild symptoms develop
 - h. Adhere to all UAMS policies for Personal Protective Equipment Use, and Hand Hygiene at all times
 - i. Take breaks and meals in isolation and not with other staff members
 - j. Continue to quarantine at home for 14 days outside of the workday
- 5. Failure to meet any of the above requirements will result in work restriction, home quarantine, and possible disciplinary action due to non-compliance.**

F. Personnel who decline the 72-hour testing protocol

Will be:

1. Placed in Quarantine
2. Required to complete the SEHS symptom survey every day
 - a. Required PCR testing
 - i. At the onset of any symptoms
 - ii. Quarantine Day 5
 - iii. Quarantine Day 10
 - iv. If negative, return to campus/work on Day 11 with monitoring and conditional clearance through day 14
3. A positive PCR requires a 10-day quarantine from the date of the test or onset of symptoms whichever is later. Return to work may occur if their symptoms are improving and they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of antipyretics.

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G. Any personnel who test positive for COVID-19 disease

Will be:

1. Placed in Quarantine
2. Required to complete the SEHS symptom survey every day for 10 days
3. Return to work on Day 11 if the employee is asymptomatic or reports improving symptoms and they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of antipyretics.

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

Will be:

1. Sent for PCR testing
2. Placed in Quarantine
3. Required to complete the SEHS symptom survey every day

Return to work if the COVID-19 PCR test is negative and the employee reports improving symptoms with no high-risk infectious symptoms