

Oregon Tech COVID Testing Requirement

As the new academic year gets underway, Oregon Tech is supplementing our COVID prevention measures to include a COVID Testing Requirement to further protect the campus community, especially given the surges like we are currently experiencing with the Delta variant. This COVID Testing Requirement applies to **all unvaccinated students and employees**, including those who are partially vaccinated or submitted an exemption and **requires a weekly** COVID test. After consultation with members of the reopening committee, this testing requirement is being introduced with everyone's health and safety as a priority.

Beginning the week of October 11, 2021, all students and employees who are not fully vaccinated will be required to undergo weekly COVID testing at the Klamath Falls and Portland-Metro campuses. Students in online programs and only enrolled in online courses are exempt. The Integrated Student Health Center (ISHC) will be monitoring test results for all testers throughout the duration of the Testing Requirement program. Results will remain confidential as no one other than ISHC staff and the participants themselves will have access to the results.

Testing Process

Individuals required to test can pick up a test kit starting on October 5 at the following locations:

- Klamath Falls – Office of Student Affairs (CU 217)
- Portland-Metro – Student Services Desk on the 1st floor

Prior to the first test, please read the attached handout which provides the following details:

- 1) How to create a free account with WVT Labs (www.labdash.net)
- 2) How to connect the sample each week to the LabDash account
- 3) Proper self-swab and labeling procedures

Each week, participants will log into their LabDash account in order to enter the Bar Code number of the sample they will be submitting for that week; this connects that specific sample to their participant account. Then, they will follow the attached instructions for completing the self-swab, label the sample appropriately, and seal it in a provided biohazard bag. The sample does not have to be refrigerated but should stay at room temperature until submitted.

Beginning the week of October 11, participants will return the sample kit to the location from which it was originally obtained. **Kits must be dropped off by Tuesday at noon** with the test labeled correctly. After dropping off their sample, participants will take a new kit for use the following week.

Participants do not have to quarantine while they wait for their results, assuming that they do not have any symptoms and have not had an exposure to a COVID-positive person. If a participant has COVID symptoms or an exposure, they should not do the self-swab test, but instead should stay home and contact ISHC at 541-885-1800 for instructions.

All tests will be shipped to WVT Labs in Corvallis for analysis and results which will be available 48 hours after WVT Labs receives the tests.

Once results are available, participants will receive an e-mail alerting them to the availability of their result; they can then log into their LabDash account and view the result themselves. Note that ISHC will only be contacting anyone who tests positive; participants will not be contacted if they test negative.

Testing Positive

If a participant tests positive, they will be contacted by ISHC staff and given instructions and timeline regarding isolation.

A positive test will exclude participants from the COVID Testing Requirement for the next 90 days, as they will have antibodies in their system which will offer protection from re-infection during that period.

Failure to Test

Not completing the COVID test can have consequences for the health and safety of our community and therefore, will be taken seriously.

Consequences for students missing the COVID testing requirement could range from fines, a conduct violation with possible sanctions ranging from loss of privilege (attending in person classes/activities) to suspension from the university. Consequences for employees could result in fines or disciplinary action up to and including termination.

From time to time, you may have a legitimate reason to miss a test in a particular week.

Acceptable reasons to miss a test include that a participant:

- Has been directed to isolate (positive for COVID).
- Has been directed to quarantine by ISHC or local health authority.
- Is an employee with an approved absence lasting five consecutive weekdays or more. Approved employee absences include vacation, FMLA leave, sick leave, business travel, working fully remotely temporarily in order to care for a quarantining/isolating dependent at home.
- Has tested positive for COVID within the last 90 days. In this case the participant will be excused from testing for the 90-day period.

Anyone needing to request permission to decline testing due to an acceptable reason (as listed above) should contact ISHC at 541-885-1800 so this can be noted on their account.

We learned last year that everyone must do their part, remain vigilant and flexible, and support each other with care and compassion so we can move forward with our in-person education and activities this year. Regular testing of our unvaccinated campus community members is one additional layer of protection which can facilitate the early identification of COVID-positive cases on campus, thereby potentially reducing transmission to others.