

COVID-19 FAQs for Clinical Students
Updated September 4, 2021

1. Do I need to be vaccinated?

Yes, all enrolled UCLA students are required to be vaccinated per the University of California [systemwide vaccination policy](#) released on July 15, 2021, which requires all UC faculty, staff, academic appointees and students to be vaccinated, subject to narrow medical exemptions and accommodations based on disability or religious belief. More details and the current policy may be found at the [Vaccines at UCLA page](#) and [Return to Campus page](#).

2. Do students need to be tested and how is testing done and how often?

Unvaccinated UCLA students, faculty and staff members who work, learn or live on campus and other UCLA properties are required to complete **mandatory COVID-19 testing twice weekly**.

Self-administered saliva-based test kits are conveniently located in more than a dozen [COVID-19 test vending machines and distribution centers throughout campus](#). Anyone with an active BruinCard may retrieve up to two of these tests per week for free. Other testing sites can be found here: <https://www.studenthealth.ucla.edu/covid-19-self-test-options-campus>

Test samples can be deposited Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. (excluding holidays). Test samples should be deposited within one hour of taking the test in order to maintain proper temperature. Individuals depositing test samples before 11 a.m. can expect results within 24–36 hours, while those depositing samples after 11 a.m. can expect results within 48 hours. Test samples should not be deposited between Friday at 2 p.m. and Monday at 8 a.m.

Vaccinated students are not required to perform asymptomatic COVID testing but self testing is available to them as is outlined above. Students ~~who~~ are symptomatic should NOT use the saliva based testing kits but rather contact the Ashe Center (details below), an LAC testing site or their primary care physician for COVID testing.

3. I am vaccinated, do I also need to daily symptom check?

Yes!

Daily [symptom checks are still required](#) for students, faculty, staff (including UCLA Health employees) who are living, learning or working on campus or at other UCLA properties, regardless of their vaccination status. More information on the campus's

symptom monitoring protocol is available in the [UCLA Summary of COVID-19 Public Health Mitigation Requirements](#).

4. Where are masks required?

Regardless of vaccination status, masks are required in all indoor spaces on the UCLA campus, including classrooms, teaching labs, libraries, indoor recreation spaces and when using BruinBus, BruinAccess and UCLA SafeRide services. Masks are required for all health care workers and visitors inside UCLA's hospitals and clinics. Face shields for additional protection are available for all health care workers, including students and can be used in all clinical settings. The [Return to Campus page](#) has further details.

5. What if I develop symptoms that I think could be COVID-19 or if I fail the daily symptom check?

If you have symptoms that you are concerned may be COVID-19, or if you fail your daily symptom check, please make an appointment for COVID-19 testing. Please note that the vending machine saliva tests on campus are for asymptomatic testing only. Saliva testing available for weekly screening should not be used for testing if you have any symptoms of COVID-19.

To make an appointment at the Ashe Center please use the Ashe Portal: <https://www.studenthealth.ucla.edu/covid19> on the website. For questions use the UCLA COVID-19 Hotline: (310) 206-6217 to speak with an Ashe Center clinical provider.

Students with symptoms should not report to their clinical sites. They should alert their clinical team, course chair and their assistant dean of their absence.

Students with any symptoms suspicious for COVID-19 must stay home and quarantine until they have a negative PCR result.

6. What do I do if I test positive for COVID-19?

First, please take a breath and know that because you are vaccinated, you will likely be mildly symptomatic. That said, you are contagious to others and so should self-isolate. **The isolation period for COVID-19 is 10 days from the positive test date.** You should contact your primary care provider to discuss your symptoms, or if you have any questions about needing possible treatment. Please also make sure to stay in contact with your clerkship or course chair as well as your assistant dean, as you will need to be absent from your clinical responsibilities during your time of isolation.

If your test was done at a UCLA site, you should expect a call from the UCLA contact tracing team following your positive test. If your test was done off campus, please make sure that your assistant dean is made aware and that you report your positive test to the UCLA COVID-19 Hotline: (310) 206-6217.

7. What about my contacts and roommates?

You should inform anyone with whom you were in close contact to call the Ashe COVID-19 hotline (310 206-6217) for testing and treatment instructions.

If you live in a shared space, The Ashe Center will work with Housing to provide a space for you to safely isolate and your assistant dean can help to facilitate this connection.

8. What if I have a close contact (such as my roommate or a friend) who tests positive for COVID-19? Or what if I was “contact traced” i.e., identified as having had a potential exposure?

If you are not fully vaccinated you should contact the COVID Call Center, be tested for COVID at 3-5 days following exposure, and **quarantine** for 7 days, returning only after your test is negative. You should also alert your clinical team, your course chair and your assistant dean so they are aware of your absence from rotation for the required time in quarantine.

If you are fully vaccinated, the risk is much lower that you will become infected. Nonetheless, the Los Angeles County Public Health Department has issued updated guidance for COVID-19 exposures in Institutes of Higher Education (i.e., DGSOM). You need to follow a **modified quarantine**:

- You may continue on your clinical rotation as long as you are asymptomatic and consistently masked.
- You may not participate in on- or off-campus social activities until you receive a negative test result at 3-5 days.
- You should not go to any indoor public- or community setting that is off-campus, such as restaurants, bars, markets and offices among others, nor attend any outdoor gathering off-campus.
- If you remain asymptomatic, please obtain a COVID-19 test at 3-5 days after your most recent exposure.
- If that COVID-19 test is negative, you are no longer on modified quarantine.
- If you do not test at the 3-5 days mark, you must maintain the modified quarantine as described above for 10 days after your most recent exposure. During this time you should continue to monitor your symptoms with the symptom tracker.
- If you develop symptoms, or if your COVID-19 test is positive, you must immediately isolate, and follow #5 and #6 above.

9. What will happen if I test positive for COVID-19 and have to come off my clinical rotation for 10 days?

The decision about whether to drop your current clinical rotation will depend upon the length of the rotation, and the time required to isolate, and is at the discretion of the course chair. You should communicate immediately with the course chair as well as your assistant dean to make a plan for the anticipated missed time and other requirements of the rotation. You should also contact your clinical team, letting them know that you will be absent until further notice. If you are more comfortable having the course chair or the Dean's office do this for you please let us know.