

What is sentinel testing?

By testing a random sample, we get a snapshot of campus health.

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- Through sentinel testing, a random sample of individuals from the campus community (faculty, staff and students) are selected for COVID-19. The testing is voluntary, but those chosen are encouraged to participate in the initiative, as it is integral to safeguarding the health of our campus. This data will help us understand the underlying prevalence of COVID-19 in our main campus community and will allow us to promptly respond to changes in infection rates on campus.

+ Who is eligible?

- Students who are registered for classes on main campus. Exceptions include students enrolled exclusively in distance education courses or experiential training courses completed off-campus.
- Part-time and full-time employees who are assigned to main campus. Employees assigned to locations away from main campus will be excluded.
- Individuals with symptoms should not participate in sentinel testing, but seek medical care.
- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 12 weeks should not participate.

+ Am I required to participate?

- No. Participation in the sentinel testing program is not mandatory for students or employees, but it is highly encouraged. Sentinel testing is a very important component of Auburn University's health and safety plan. This testing allows us to identify increases in infection rates and promptly respond.

+ How will I know if I've been selected to participate?

- AU employees and students will receive an email asking to schedule an appointment for COVID-19 random sentinel testing.
- Emails for spring semester sentinel testing were sent starting Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021.
- If you receive an email about sentinel testing, please click on the link provided, complete the pre-test symptoms screen and select an appointment time from the options listed.

+ Should I participate if I have previously tested positive for COVID-19?

- If you tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 12 weeks, you should not participate in sentinel testing. If invited to participate, you should decline.



+ Should I participate if I am symptomatic or have had direct exposure to someone with COVID-19?

- No. During the registration process, you will be asked basic questions regarding COVID-19 risk. If you indicate that you are symptomatic or have been directly exposed over the past 14 days to someone who has COVID-19, you are automatically excluded from random selection.

+ Where will sentinel testing occur?

- Testing will occur in the scholarship room at Beard-Eaves Memorial Coliseum on Auburn's main campus.

+ Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

- Email the COVID-19 Resource Center at covidresourcecenter@auburn.edu and include "Sentinel Testing" in the subject of the email.

