

Subject line: As cases ease, booster doses remain important

This message covers:

- Booster doses
- New locations, schedule for antigen test kit pickup
- Key resources

Dear faculty and staff,

It's encouraging to see COVID-19 cases leveling off on campus and in the community. An important part of our spring strategy was asking students to test before returning to Madison as well as before coming to campus for the first time. We want to thank all the students who followed this guidance – they identified cases that might otherwise have gone undetected. By staying home until they had recovered, they helped slow the spread.

We're also grateful for all that staff and faculty across the university have done to welcome students back and get the semester off to a good start. The rest of this message shares important information and resources for the weeks ahead.

Booster doses

Although case numbers are trending downward, COVID-19 transmission persists and is a continued concern for overburdened health systems and vulnerable populations. Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 and getting a booster shot when eligible is the best way to ensure personal safety at this phase of the pandemic. When layered with other personal measures such as masking and access to testing, the vast majority of people are protected from severe illness.

- **Get boosted:** If you're eligible for a booster and have not yet received one, [make an appointment](#) today at UHS.
- **Then let us know about it:** The university is gathering statistics on booster doses to help us plan more effectively. If you got your booster at UHS or gave UHS permission to access your Wisconsin Immunization Record, you don't need to take any additional action. Otherwise, please [upload your record to MyUHS](#) or, if you were vaccinated in Wisconsin, you may [fill out this form](#) to grant UHS permission to access your COVID-19 vaccination records.

New locations, schedule for antigen test kit pickup

During the past few weeks, the university has given out thousands of [at-home antigen tests](#) and masks and continued to maintain a [PCR test capacity](#) of 5,000 tests per week, which has been more than enough to meet current demand.

- Starting Monday, Feb. 7, **at-home antigen test kits** will be available for pickup (to individuals with a valid Wiscard and access to MyUHS) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at **the Campus and Community Information Desk in the Memorial Union on Mondays and Fridays** and at **the Campus and Community Information Desk in Union South from Tuesday through Thursday**. Test kits are limited to one per person per calendar week, supplies permitting.
- **PCR testing** remains available [by appointment](#) on weekdays at the University Club.
- **Free masks for employees:** N95/KN95 masks continue to be provided to instructors (including teaching assistants) and other front-line/public-facing employees. Given the current high demand for this type of mask, we are taking this approach to ensure we maintain sufficient supply for employees in these roles. For employees in non-public-facing roles, surgical masks are available. Masks are being distributed to employees through their department/unit. Check with your dean's or director's office if you have questions.
- **Free N95 masks** are available for pickup now at many pharmacies (including pharmacies within large retail chains) and community health centers, thanks to a distribution program offered by the federal government. Every person is allowed up to three masks, pending availability.
- **Antigen test kits** are also available off-campus, including four free kits offered by [Covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) and up to eight free kits per person per month [covered by health insurance](#).

Key resources

- [What to do](#) if you test positive or are a close contact of someone who's tested positive.
- [How to respond](#) if you see someone not wearing a mask as required inside campus buildings. Masks must cover the nose and mouth and be worn except when actively eating or drinking.
- [Workplace safety, leave options, accommodations and more](#)
- Visit [the campus COVID-19 website](#); check out the [FAQs](#); if you can't find what you need, email covidresponse@vc.wisc.edu or call (608) 262-7777