



## University of Denver COVID-19 Testing Protocol

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Denver (DU) has adopted several tools, including testing, contact tracing, isolation of positive cases, and other mitigation measures to reduce transmission of COVID-19 on campus to prioritize in-person instruction and other educational and extracurricular events. DU closely monitors conditions on campus and in the surrounding community to adapt the implementation of these tools in response to changing conditions and variants.

### Alert Levels & Mandatory Testing

Under all COVID-19 Alert Levels, DU requires students, staff, and faculty to obtain laboratory-based PCR COVID-19 tests under the following circumstances:

- When an individual is notified by the DU contact tracers that they are part of a unit experiencing an outbreak, defined by the [Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment](#) (CDPHE) as five (5) or more confirmed and related cases of COVID-19 in a facility or group within 14 days;
- When an individual is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19; and/or
- When an individual has been exposed to and identified as a close contact of another individual who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Under COVID-19 Alert Levels yellow, orange, red, or purple, DU may institute mandatory community testing for all students, staff, faculty, and other personnel engaging in any on-campus activity at DU or engaging in in-person internships, field placements, service learning, or off-campus experiential learning as part of their DU role or program. This includes all students, faculty, staff, and other personnel who live, work, and/or attend classes on campus.

DU will issue a campus-wide communication if DU institutes mandatory community testing. DU will specify the testing requirements and testing interval, and an individual's testing schedule and testing compliance will be available through the MyDU portal. Individuals must comply with the COVID-19 mandatory testing requirements to maintain campus access, participate in on-campus activities, in-person internships, field placements, service learning, or off-campus experiential learning.

### On-Campus COVID-19 Testing

All testing through DU's on-campus testing program is available at no charge for students, faculty, staff and other personnel. DU community members are welcome to test as needed at the Care Pod. Check the [DU Spit Lab website](#) for current operating hours.

DU will notify individuals of their on-campus test results either through their MyHealth account and/or through DU's contact tracing team. Possible test results include: negative (not detected); positive (detected); inconclusive (retesting required); invalid (sample will be re-run); or QNS (quality or quantity not sufficient).

## **Off-Campus COVID-19 Testing**

Because individuals may obtain required PCR tests at no charge on-campus, if a student, faculty or staff member chooses to comply with DU's testing requirements through testing off campus either with a PCR or home test, the individual is responsible for any co-pay or other out-of-pocket expense associated with such testing.

The individual must upload results from a laboratory-based PCR test to their MyHealth account according to their required testing schedule. To keep campus access current, please allow time to obtain results from external PCR tests and for uploaded records to be reviewed.

## **At-home Tests**

DU will accept COVID-19 home tests as proof of a positive test if the individual (1) uploads an image of the positive result to their MyHealth account within 48 hours of the positive test; and (2) takes a PCR test at the DU Care Pod within three days of testing positive with the home test. If an individual complies with these requirements, their isolation period will begin on the date of the positive home test.

*Please note that DU will not accept COVID-19 home tests as proof of a negative result.*

DU's contact tracing team will identify and inform DU community members of their required testing dates via a secure message to the individual's MyHealth account.

DU community members who test positive for COVID-19 through an off-campus test should report this immediately to [reportCOVID@du.edu](mailto:reportCOVID@du.edu) or via phone or text at 303-871-COVID (2683) and begin isolation immediately. For specific information regarding the requirements for isolation, please refer to the COVID-19 Isolation protocol.

## **Contact Tracing**

During periods in which DU determines that, based on the positivity rate on campus, the most effective strategy for containment requires that the contact tracers devote more resources to increased testing and notification and isolation of DU community members who have positive test results, the team may temporarily suspend various aspects of contact tracing in favor of more frequent testing of DU community members.