



July 30, 2020

Dear Heidelberg Students and Families,

With your arrival in about three weeks to begin the Fall 2020 semester, Heidelberg University is announcing today the Heidelberg COVID-19 Campus Mass Testing Protocol for all students, faculty, and staff as they arrive back on campus to launch the new academic year.

We want everyone to have the best possible learning and living experience under the current conditions, and we're committed to implementing every feasible precaution to make sure that happens. You've heard it said many times, but these truly are uncharted waters we are about to enter, and we want to ensure to the best of our ability that everyone stays as healthy and safe as possible and we all have a successful semester together.

### **The Heidelberg COVID-19 Campus Mass Testing Protocol**

All students, faculty, and staff will be required to complete COVID-19 testing. We will also implement a "surveillance" testing protocol by which we will test a random sample of individuals as well as conduct contact tracing throughout the Fall Semester and possibly into the Spring Semester. Our health and safety objective is to proactively monitor and manage any potential COVID-19 cases on our campus as effectively as possible.

The Heidelberg COVID-19 Campus Mass Testing Protocol is grounded on two complementary testing procedures: 1) the SOFIA2 COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test and 2) Mercy Health Tiffin Hospital Diagnostic Testing.

We will utilize the SOFIA2 COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test" which is recognized by the NCAA as a qualified testing solution, follow CDC protocols and use FDA-approved equipment which we have purchased as an initial screening for all new and returning students as well as all faculty and staff. Results are generally available in 15 minutes. Anyone whose screening test is positive will be sent to Mercy Health Tiffin Hospital for diagnostic testing to confirm the results. Mercy Health Tiffin Hospital diagnostic testing generally provides results in about 72 hours. Students who test positive will be asked to return home as soon as possible. Heidelberg will provide a designated residential building with 45 rooms on campus to quarantine students with a positive test until that individual can safely return home.

Heidelberg and the Stoner Health & Counseling Center are partnering with Mercy Health Tiffin Hospital to conduct the screening tests on our campus. We will provide logistics information about the screening process before you arrive.



As a reminder, if you have any symptoms of COVID-19, you should be tested immediately. These symptoms include: a fever (100.4 or greater) or chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

*If you have tested positive, you should not come to campus.*

Campus mass testing, including the surveillance testing that will follow, is just one of the tools we will use in our effort to keep everyone safe and healthy. We will also roll out an app so that students can easily complete the mandatory daily self-health evaluation. As a reminder, all students, faculty and staff, and visitors will be required to wear facial coverings and practice physical distancing, and appropriate sanitization and hygiene as we move toward reopening our campus. You can find more about the Responsible Restart: Heidelberg plan [here](#). Additionally, we encourage everyone to self-quarantine for 14 days prior to arriving on campus to the greatest extent possible.

As communicated previously, all students (faculty and staff too) will be expected to sign the *Heidelberg Pledge of Health & Safety*, confirming their understanding and commitment to abide by all University protocols so that we can stay healthy and safe throughout the upcoming academic year.

If you have any questions about campus mass testing, feel free to reach out to Dean Abrams at [cabrams@heidelberg.edu](mailto:cabrams@heidelberg.edu).

The school year will be here before we know it, and we look forward to the campus coming alive again when you arrive. Stay safe and healthy and we'll see you soon!

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Abrams  
Dean of Student Affairs

Janelle Baldosser, CNP  
Director of Stoner Health and Counseling Center