



Dear Heidelberg Community,

Today, we are announcing the next proactive step in our ongoing effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on our campus. On Tuesday, September 15, and continuing through the duration of the fall semester, we will begin our COVID-19 Campus Surveillance Testing Plan, which will involve weekly randomized surveillance testing of students, faculty and staff. The testing will be conducted in partnership with Mercy Health -- Tiffin Hospital and Harness Health Partners.

As you know, Heidelberg conducted mass COVID-19 testing of the entire campus community prior to the official beginning of the academic year. That process was successful and allowed our campus to begin the semester as healthy as possible, and we take this next step now so that we can understand any possible spread of the virus and implement our plan to isolate and / or quarantine anyone on our campus who tests positive. We will again be using a PCR test, which has been proven to be highly accurate with a high level of specificity and sensitivity. For our surveillance testing, health care professionals at Mercy will utilize an oropharyngeal test, which is similar to a test for strep throat.

Here are a few points to help our surveillance testing protocol run smoothly:

**How many will be tested and how will they be selected?**

Each week, a total of 11 people – 9 students, 1 faculty, and 1 staff member – will be randomly chosen within “pods.” The " pods" and an example of the selection are as follows:

The "pods" from which we will choose students include:

- Student-Athletes
- School of Music & Theatre (SMT)
- Greek Life
- All others

Example of selection schedule:

Week of September 13

- 9 student-athletes randomly chosen from all student-athletes
- 1 faculty member randomly chosen from all faculty
- 1 staff member randomly chosen from all staff

Week of September 20

- 9 SMT members randomly chosen from all SMT members

- 1 faculty member randomly chosen from all faculty
- 1 staff member randomly chosen from all staff

Week of September 27

- 9 Geek Life students randomly chosen from all Greek Life students
- 1 faculty member randomly chosen from all faculty
- 1 staff member randomly chosen from all staff

Week of October 4

- 9 students who do not affiliate with athletics, SMT, or Greek Life will be randomly chosen from all students not affiliated with one of the groups identified
- 1 faculty member randomly chosen from all faculty
- 1 staff member randomly chosen from all staff

**What is the cost?**

Testing will be provided at no cost to the individual.

**Why such a higher percentage of students vs. faculty and staff?**

Because we have a higher percentage of students. The first round of testing led to 6 positive student cases, 0 faculty and staff and 1 other.

**When and where will the testing take place?**

Surveillance testing will be conducted on Tuesdays at Mercy Hospital’s drive-thru testing site at the northwest corner of the hospital, near the main entrance. The hospital address is 45 St. Lawrence Drive, Tiffin, OH 44883. If you are notified that you have been selected for testing, you should plan to go to Mercy Hospital between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Tuesday of that week for your test. Employees may complete surveillance testing during their normal working hours.

**How will I be contacted if I am selected to be tested?**

Students will receive notification from Stoner Health & Counseling Center on Monday and will complete their test on that Tuesday. Faculty / Staff will receive notification from Human Resources with the same schedule.

**How long does testing take?**

Typically, there is a short wait time – approximately 10-15 minutes. You will stay in your vehicle for the testing.

**How long will I have to wait for my results and how will I receive them?**

Typically, 3-5 days. As with our initial round of testing, you will receive notification via email from Mercy Hospital.

**What do I need to bring with me?**

You will need to bring the lab request form and a consent form with you. The forms are similar to those you completed during our initial testing in Seiberling Gymnasium. Students being tested will need to go to Stoner Health Center to complete the forms in advance. Stoner staff members will provide

instructions to complete the forms ahead of time, which will reduce your wait time at the test site. Faculty and staff will get the necessary forms from Human Resources.

Please note that unless you have been notified that you have been selected for random testing and have University-authorized documentation, you **should not** go to the Mercy test site for Heidelberg testing. A health care provider can refer a student or a faculty or staff member for testing independent of Heidelberg's surveillance testing protocol.

**Will I be required to quarantine while I await my test results?**

No. This is surveillance testing.

**What if I need surveillance testing transportation to the testing site?**

If you need help with transportation to the testing location, you should contact Dean of Student Affairs Chris Abrams at [studentaffairs@heidelberg.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@heidelberg.edu).

We appreciate everyone's cooperation and understanding as we work together to keep our campus as healthy and safe as possible. Surveillance testing is one more step in our attempt to keep our campus safe. Please continue to adhere to safety protocols; wear your mask, wash your hands frequently, observe 6 feet of social distancing whenever possible and sanitize your space often.

And as always, if you have any COVID-19 symptoms you should contact Stoner Health Center right away and the staff will assist you with guidance for the steps you will need to take. You **should not** show up at the health center without calling first.

If you have questions about surveillance testing, please email Janelle Baldosser at [jbaldoss@heidelberg.edu](mailto:jbaldoss@heidelberg.edu) if you are a student and [hr@heidelberg.edu](mailto:hr@heidelberg.edu) or reach out to Margaret Rudolph directly if you are an employee.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Abrams  
Dean of Student Affairs

Margaret Rudolph, MLHR  
Chief Human Resources Officer and Title IX Coordinator