

Message from Emory Forward

COVID-19 Update

September 7, 2021

In this message:

- Reminder of [modified yellow operating status](#)
- Emory maintains support services for those COVID-19 positive despite strain on systems
- Please be patient as we prioritize those who are sick and minimize delays
- Be vigilant in your health practices both on and off campus
- Check email for additional information

Dear Emory community,

Last [Thursday](#), Emory moved to a [modified yellow operating status](#) to address increases in COVID-19 positive cases across the campus community. We are actively working to reverse this trend through increased testing, adjusted dining operations, modified gathering protocols and restrictions on certain activities. Thanks to tireless collaborations across campus, we continue to balance our goal of living out Emory's mission and providing a vibrant campus experience, *while also* maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

Emory has created a comprehensive framework to identify positive cases, conduct contact tracing, provide quarantine and isolation housing, and deliver important medical and wrap-around services. The current increase in positive cases has strained the systems and personnel here at Emory working to maintain a high level of care for our impacted students. As we manage this current stress on Emory's COVID-19 response teams and processes, please remain patient and understanding with those working hard to prioritize services for campus members sick or COVID-19 positive—while they also work to reduce delays.

As we conduct case investigations, off-campus transmission continues to be the primary source of infection at Emory. **For this reason, I ask for you to strictly follow COVID-19 protocols and be vigilant in your health practices both on and off campus.** Wear your mask, stay home when sick or symptomatic, gather outdoors as much as possible and wash your hands regularly. We must work together to minimize transmission and protect those most vulnerable.

Any member of our campus community who is *asymptomatic* can always [schedule a screening test](#) on the [Emory Forward](#) website. Anyone symptomatic or exposed is asked to follow the [proper protocols](#) to receive specific guidance on testing for their situation. We will also continue to require testing for cohorts or groups identified by our contact tracing and public health advisory teams as having high risk of exposure.

Finally, please continue to check your inbox for further COVID-19 guidance from those offices relevant to you and your affiliation with Emory University. These include Human Resources, your dean's office and Campus Life, among others. Each office plays a different part in our COVID-19 efforts, and I encourage you to read the important information they share. Let's work together to keep COVID-19 off campus so we can stay on campus.

Thank you for your understanding and for continuing to be active partners in keeping yourself and others safe.

Sincerely,

Amir St. Clair

Associate Vice President and Executive Director for COVID-19 Response and Recovery