

Notre Dame of Maryland University
Surveillance Testing FAQ
Updated: April 26, 2021

Question – Who is/should be participating in the testing pool?

All students, faculty, and staff on or coming to campus (including Elkridge and required in-person professional program clinicals, practicums, or internships) on a regular/routine basis during the spring semester. A regular/routine basis includes living, working, teaching, or learning (including attending classes or any ongoing academic related-activities) on campus. Broadly, a regular/routine basis includes all activities on campus more than a very infrequent visit, including visiting an office, picking up or dropping off materials or documents, etc. Generally, if you are on campus once or more per week for any reason, you are required to be in the testing pool.

Question – Students – I am pursuing 100% remote learning this semester, what do I do?

If you are a) are pursuing ALL of your courses (100%) via remote learning for the semester, b) NOT living on campus, and c) NOT engaged in any required in-person professional program clinicals, practicums, internships, etc. – you may be excused from testing and removed from the testing pool.

If you are selected for testing, please reply to COVID_Testing@ndm.edu and indicate in your email that are “taking all of your courses (100%) via remote learning for the semester, do NOT live on campus, and are not engaged in any required in-person professional program clinicals, practicums, or internships.”

Question – I’m not coming to campus on a routine/regular basis, what do I do?

If you feel that you have been incorrectly included in the testing pool and you are not on or coming to campus on a regular/routine basis, please send an email to COVID_Testing@ndm.edu with your request to be removed from the testing pool.

Please be aware that if you are removed from the testing pool, you are not be permitted to come to campus for any regular/routine activities including attending class or academic related-activities.

Question – I have been tested recently for COVID-19, do I need to participate?

If you are selected for COVID-19 random sample surveillance testing, you are generally required to report for testing, regardless of when you last received a negative COVID-19 test.

Surveillance testing addresses two important goals – 1) identifying asymptomatic individuals; and 2) monitoring the University’s on-campus positivity rate. This information will inform the University’s strategy and response to COVID-19.

An exception to this policy is provided for individuals who were positively diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 90 days, [have recovered](#), and remain symptom free.

Question – I have been recently fully vaccinated for COVID-19, do I need to participate?

Yes; you are still required to be tested even if you are fully vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccines are not 100% effective and it is still possible to contract COVID-19 even if you have been fully vaccinated.

Question – These dates/times do not work for me, can I be excused or pick another day?

Our goal is to provide our students, faculty, and staff options and flexibility for fulfilling their required testing. Individuals may sign up for testing on two different days over the course of 12 hours. We understand it may be difficult to fit the required testing into your schedule but please know that your participation in testing is important and required.

In the event you have class during the available testing times, please communicate with your faculty member to let them to know you may be a few minutes late or may need to depart a few minutes early from class. The COVID Testing Team is able to send a note to your faculty member if desired/necessary.

Failure to complete mandatory surveillance testing may result in a referral for disciplinary action to the Offices of Student Life or Human Resources, including the suspension of your participation in your academic program.

While selected individuals are expected to sign up and report for required COVID-19 surveillance testing, we understand there may be some situations that make an individual's participation impossible or not without significant hardship. Situations such as these will be considered and addressed on a case-by-case basis.

ABSN students being educated at Elkridge will be provided the option of completing required testing at NDMU's main campus or seeking external testing through a local health department or other health provider.

Question – What kind of COVID-19 test am I self-administering?

The COVID-19 test is a viral nasal swab test that is inserted ½ to 1 inch into your nose (different than the deep nasal “brain teaser” tests). See the links below for more information.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/COVID-19-anterior-self-swab-testing-center.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQeI9CMGods&feature=youtu.be>

Question – How long will the testing/appointment take?

During your selected appointment slot, you will check-in and verify some information before proceeding to a private area for test administration. Generally, the entire process takes less than 10 minutes.

Question – I was not coming to campus on a “regular/routine” basis but my status may be changing, what do I need to do?

If you are a faculty or staff member and your status has or will soon change, please touch base with your respective Dean (in the case of faculty), or supervisor and Vice President (in the case of staff). Following that discussion, please send an email to Human_Resources@ndm.edu informing them of your change in status. If you are a student worker, please touch base with your supervisor and send an email to Human_Resources@ndm.edu informing them of your change in status. The Office of Human Resources will advise the Testing Team of any changes in status.

If you are a student, your status is generally determined by your semester face-to-face class schedule or on-campus living arrangement as determined by the Offices of the Registrar and Residence Life. **For students pursuing 100% remote learning – Please the earlier Q&A regarding requesting out of the testing pool.**

Question – Who do I contact with questions?

You may reach out to COVID_Testing@ndm.edu with any questions or concerns.