

Friday, September 12, 2025

UAPB Student Health Services would like to provide an update regarding our current approach to COVID-19 management. COVID-19 is no longer considered a pandemic, but is now considered an endemic illness. As such, our practice will now align with the most current public health guidance and the current level of community risk. You can trust that we are following the best advice available to keep our community safe.

Please review and share the updated guidelines below:

- We will no longer conduct contact screening for individuals who have been exposed to a positive case.
- Testing by Student Health Services will only be performed if symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath warrant testing. If you experience any of these symptoms, please contact us for further guidance.
- Students are not required to isolate if they test positive. However, the CDC continues to recommend limiting close contact with others when experiencing fever or other significant symptoms. This does not mean students must always remain in their rooms. You may leave your room for fresh air, meals, or to purchase personal items.
- To help protect classmates and instructors, we ask that students not attend class if they are febrile (fever). Due to the size and close setting of our classrooms, staying home when experiencing a fever is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness and safeguard the campus community.

We continue to recommend responsible socializing, which includes maintaining physical distance, wearing masks in crowded or enclosed spaces if susceptible, and practicing good hand hygiene, to help reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, influenza, and other seasonal viruses.

As always, our priority remains the health and safety of our campus community. We are here to support you. We encourage students to monitor their health, practice good hygiene, and seek care at Student Health Services if they experience symptoms.

Per our <u>website</u>, if you are experiencing respiratory symptoms, please call our office at (870) 575-7106 before coming in person.

Belinda Holmes

Director of Student Health Services

holmesb@uapb.edu