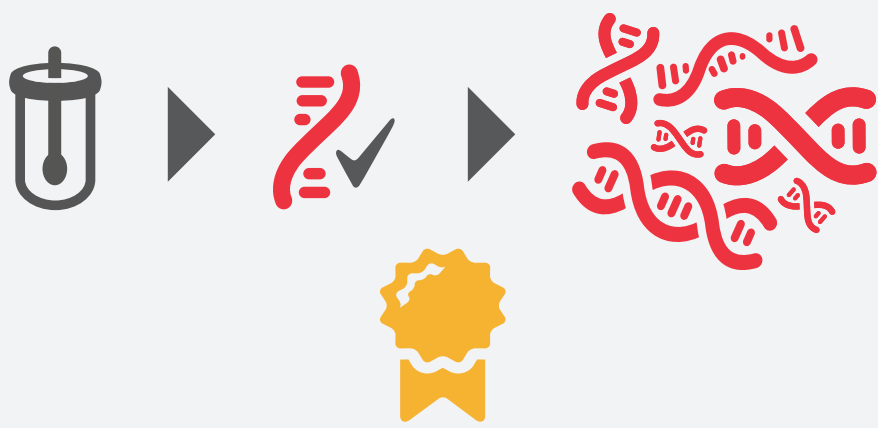


Coronavirus testing for university campuses: get the facts



SARS-CoV-2 and PCR testing

- **SARS-CoV-2** is the coronavirus that causes **COVID-19**
- PCR-based coronavirus tests measure the level of SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA in a sample
- There are several different sample types for PCR testing, such as nasal swabs and saliva
- **PCR-based testing is the gold standard** for coronavirus detection



Vaccination by the numbers*

- Most universities in the United States **currently do not require students to be vaccinated** against COVID-19 for the upcoming fall semester [1]
- **Less than half** of the American population is fully vaccinated [2]
 - In some states, that number is as low as 34% [2]
- Young adults are **even less likely** than the eligible general population to be vaccinated [3]

* As of August 2021.



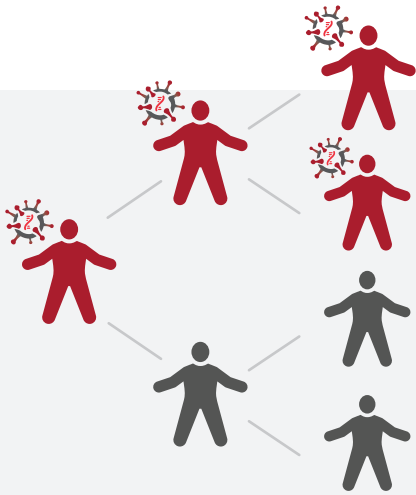
Variants are on the rise

- Like all viruses, SARS-CoV-2 has mutated into variant strains [4]
- These include variants that are **more transmissible** than the original virus, such as the **Delta variant**
 - The Delta variant is currently the **dominant form** of the virus in the U.S. [5]
- It is unknown whether currently available vaccines will remain effective against **future variants yet to emerge**



Return to “normalcy” means higher risk of viral spread

- Campus populations are **expected to increase** this fall compared to the last academic year [6]
 - Students will be living and learning in close quarters
- Student-athletes are at an **increased risk of exposure** to COVID-19 due to traveling and frequent contact with students from other universities



Breakthrough infections continue to occur

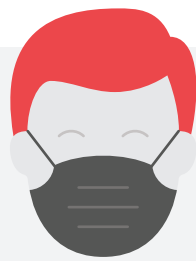
- Breakthrough infections are defined as SARS-CoV-2 infection among the fully vaccinated [7]
- Breakthrough infections have resulted in **further viral spread** and can put **immunocompromised community members at risk**
- There is concern that they could also result in **“long COVID”**—long-term health effects resulting from infection [8]



The continued need for testing during the 2021/2022 academic year

An adaptable testing strategy of all university students, regardless of vaccination status, will be an important tool in providing proactive, as opposed to reactive, responses to any potential outbreaks on campus, such as:

- **Arrival testing** to help ensure students are COVID-19-free upon return to campus
- **Routine testing** to help mitigate spread among the student population
 - For example, some prominent U.S. universities have recently mandated regular testing of all students, regardless of vaccination status [9,10]
- **On-site PCR testing** to quickly determine whether a student with symptoms has COVID-19



Please refer to the CDC website for the latest COVID-19 testing guidelines.

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