

Troy University returning to normal operations

May 12, 2021

In accord with the latest guidance from the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control, Troy University is preparing to return to normal campus operations.

Effective immediately, the TROY Strong COVID-19 protocols have been replaced by a new set of guidelines emphasizing personal responsibility and care for others. This transition plan (available on our [Coronavirus Information Center](#)) lifts many mandatory safety requirements, but still urges everyone on campus to protect the health and safety of their fellow Trojans through daily health practices.

“All indices point to a lessening of the pandemic,” said Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor. “Accordingly, effective immediately the University will replace institutional mandates with policies emphasizing personal responsibility regarding wearing masks, social distancing and personal hygiene. Our theme is ‘Have Fun in ‘21’ and our goal is to return to regular operations. We will continue to monitor the impact of the virus, with the safety of students, faculty and staff as our main priority.”

The new safety protocols are:

1. **Vaccinations are strongly encouraged.** As of April 5, all Alabamians ages 16 and older have been eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. All students, faculty and staff are urged to get the COVID-19 vaccination, either at the Troy Campus or through a healthcare provider of your choice.
2. **Masks are optional inside all campus buildings and facilities.** Beginning immediately, Troy University will shift to personal responsibility in the fight against COVID-19. However, for individuals 65 years or older, or for individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy, masks should be considered for indoor areas.
3. **Classrooms, offices and other facilities will operate at normal capacity.** However, individuals are asked to be mindful of personal distance.
4. **Maintain proactive personal health practices** including washing hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces; refraining from touching your face; sneezing or coughing into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow; and disinfecting frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
5. **Stay home when sick.** Stay home if you are not feeling well, particularly if you are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.

“I am grateful to all of our students, faculty and staff for their diligence this past year in observing our COVID-19 safety procedures,” said Dr. Lance Tatum, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. “Over the past few weeks, I have been encouraged by the declining numbers of COVID-19 cases on our Alabama campuses, including many days with no new cases reported at all. We feel now is the right time to begin our transition back to normal operations.”

Students and employees are asked to continue reporting if they have been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19, and the University will continue reporting confirmed cases on a weekly basis via the online Coronavirus Information Center.

“We are still closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and will adjust our plans as needed to protect the health and safety of the campus, based on the latest state and federal guidance,” Dr. Tatum said. “In the meantime, I ask everyone to protect yourself and others by being mindful of daily health precautions.”