

08/05/20: Updates to Student COVID-19 testing, access to campus, and other Fall information

We are providing additional details and clarification regarding COVID-19 testing for SoM graduate students for the Fall '20 semester, following the recent communications sent from The Graduate School, the President, and the Provost.

- Testing for graduate students will begin August 17th. The testing plan will likely require that the first week (or two) of classes be delivered remotely. Faculty scheduled to teach an in-person class may need to adjust to a temporary period of online instruction.
- Incoming (new) 1st year students will participate in baseline COVID-19 testing at Duke starting August 17th, while continuing students will participate in surveillance testing that is expected to begin in September. *Students who are taking remote classes for Fall but live in the Raleigh-Durham area should be baseline tested if they expect to come to campus, even infrequently.* Information about student registration for baseline or surveillance testing will be released soon.
- No incoming 1st year student is permitted on campus until they are tested and receive a negative result. Their Duke cards will not be activated, and they will not have building access. They should not attempt to enter buildings without swiping their Duke card or using an authorized individual's building access.
- Continuing SoM PhD students who are already authorized to access research buildings will continue to have building access as surveillance testing is being developed and while awaiting surveillance testing results.
- Each of us can offer important contributions to the health and well-being of our community through wearing masks, safe physical distancing, and regular hand washing. All members of the Duke community should attest to the Duke Compact affirming these shared expectations and responsibility. Agreement with the Duke Compact and a Policy Plan specific to Masters or PhD students will be coordinated by the Duke Office of Audit, Risk, and Compliance (OARC; look for communication from the @compliance360.com email address).
- Due to COVID safety measures, graduate students will not be able to use the rec center during Fall 2020. Please contact recmemberships@duke.edu or the Wilson front desk (919-613-7489) if you have questions about access to Duke's rec facilities.