



## Flu Vaccine Clinics

The College of Pharmacy has scheduled on-campus flu vaccine clinics on both the HSC-OKC and Schusterman campuses. Additional details about the clinics are in the **attached flyers**. Recall that the flu vaccine or an approved vaccine declination form is required annually for individuals with patient-facing responsibilities.

Employees and students at remote sites are invited to participate in any of the College of Pharmacy clinics, schedules permitting. Students and employees not able to participate in an on-campus vaccine clinic can also visit the Oklahoma State Department of Health [Fight Flu](#) page to find flu vaccine in their areas.

Flu is spread easily, so practice good hand-washing and cover your cough. See more tips in the CDC's [\\*Healthy Habits to Help Prevent Flu](#)



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA  
Health Sciences Center



## Absences Due to Illness

Student absences due to illness should be managed in accordance with the course syllabus and college policies. Student deans can assist with questions regarding student illnesses.

Faculty and staff absences due to illness should be reported using the appropriate leave category (PTO, leave without pay, FMLA, short-term disability). Human Resources can assist with questions regarding appropriate leave categories.

In some instances, supervisors may, in consultation with the employee, determine that it is appropriate for an employee to work from home when ill rather than to take leave.

## COVID-19 Resources



### Return-to-Work

- We continue to look to the [CDC](#) for guidance on COVID exposures and return-to-work timelines.

Dr. Chad Douglas, College of Medicine, and Dr. Donna Tyungu, Pediatrics Infectious Diseases, have created the **attached easy-to-follow HSC COVID Exposures Testing and Isolations Guidelines chart** summarizing the CDC return-to-work guidance for individuals involved in patient care (including patients in research studies) and for individuals in non-health care settings..

Drs. Dale Bratzler, Aaron Wendelboe, and Doug Drevets continue to monitor local and national infection and hospitalization rates, and we will email campus updates as appropriate. As of this week, Dr. Bratzler notes that while hospitalizations are up, test positivity has declined slightly.



### COVID-19 Tests

- Effective Monday, September 24, households can receive four free rapid tests, and employees experiencing COVID symptoms are encouraged to test before returning to work.

Free COVID-19 tests can be ordered [here](#). You can also check "expired" at-home tests [here](#) to see if the expiration dates have been extended.



### Masks

- Masking in response to COVID may be required for students, employees, and volunteers working in patient care areas and in buildings where patient care is the primary purpose. Individuals should contact their supervisors if they are unsure of masking requirements in specific areas.

Masking required as part of standard infection control processes independent of COVID protocols is not impacted by this guidance.

For convenience, a limited supply of masks will be available at the main entrance of the HSC Student Union, Bird Library Building, and 865 Research Park. Masking is welcomed and encouraged in all other areas, particularly if [CDC guidance](#) recommends it for your particular circumstances.



### COVID-19 Vaccines

- This week, the CDC endorsed the new COVID-19 booster for all eligible individuals over 6 months of age. This **means no one should be charged for the vaccine**, as insurance and federal funding programs will cover the cost for all individuals. We anticipate shipment to pharmacies will occur very quickly. Campus notices will be provided as the new COVID booster vaccines become available in on-campus pharmacies.

Per the CDC, these updated boosters will reduce the risk of infection, reduce the severity of symptoms, and curb the risk of long COVID.

Individuals who have not had the initial COVID vaccine(s) are encouraged to visit a campus pharmacy to schedule their initial vaccine or to visit their provider or local pharmacy. Recall that all individuals with patient care responsibilities are required to have completed at least the first COVID vaccine series or to have an approved vaccine declination form on file.