



To: USG Community
From: Dr. Anne Khademian
RE: USG Return to Campus Information Beginning January 3rd
Date: December 30, 2021

Dear USG Community,

We hope you are enjoying the final few days of 2021 and looking forward to an exciting 2022! As we prepare to return to work on Monday, January 3rd, we are making necessary changes to USG campus operations. Due to a record-breaking increase in positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalization rates in Montgomery County, ***we will be limiting operations on the USG campus from January 3rd-17th and providing services virtually during that time.*** During that two week period we will continue to monitor the health and safety conditions in Montgomery County, the needs of our staff/partners/students and will prepare for increasing our PCR testing capacity at the campus. In the meantime, please note that the County will continue to offer PCR testing on Wednesdays at the USG campus, on the ground floor of the Biomedical Sciences and Engineering building.

Appointments for Montgomery County testing sites can be made online. Walk-ins are accepted at limited sites. The County updates information daily on their [COVID-19 Information Portal](#).

We will be providing additional guidance about USG campus operations and expectations for opening the campus before the 17th.

USG Staff are instructed to telework during this period. Please work with your individual supervisors about the teleworking arrangements for your particular job duties and if you are considered essential staff. Essential staff will need to comply with the USM vaccination mandated guidelines. If you have spoken to your supervisor and have any remaining questions or concerns, please contact Nitshu Joshi in Human Resources. If you need to come to the campus to pick up any work items, please email John Brandt or Mike Wahl and they will notify the security team that you will be coming to campus. When you arrive please check in at the Security Desk in Building III. Please note that if you are coming to campus to pick up items, we expect that you are fully vaccinated and will wear a mask while indoors. KN95 masks are strongly encouraged while you are on the campus. The Security Officers can provide you with one at your request.

USG Partner Staff and Faculty: We ask that you remain off-campus during this period. Please note that if you are coming to campus to pick up items, we expect that you are in full compliance with the USM vaccine mandate and will wear a mask while indoors. KN95 masks are strongly encouraged while you are on the campus. The Security Officers can provide you with one at your request. Any partners planning in-person orientations during these two weeks, please contact Joyce Fuhrman or Mary Lang.

Students and Visitors: Students and visitors will not be allowed on campus except for picking up items from CSEF (including the Grover Essentials pantry lockers), the library (curbside service) or directly from faculty/partner staff. We are currently working with CSEF regarding the distribution of IDs for the spring semester. If you need to come to the campus to pick up any items, please email John Brandt or Mike Wahl and they will notify the Security team of your expected arrival on campus. When you arrive please check in at the Security Desk in Building III. Please note that if you are coming to campus to pick up items, we expect that you are fully vaccinated and will wear a mask while indoors. KN95 masks are strongly encouraged while you are on the campus. The Security Officers can provide you with one at your request.

Our website will be updated shortly to reflect this new information.

This remains a difficult time for us all as the surge in cases due to the Omicron variant has tested our patience. We ask for your continued understanding as we continue to navigate these changing conditions and focus on the health and safety of everyone within the USG community. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the USG Health and Safety team to Erin Ward, Manager at eward9@umd.edu

Sincerely,

Anne Khademian, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Universities at Shady Grove