



As we move toward the fall semester and continue our Return to Campus phased-in plan, here are **Five Things You Should Know This Week:**

1: The new CARES Center is now operational online, via phone and via the GS mobile app.

To help with reporting and tracking of COVID-19 cases on our campus, Georgia Southern has developed the CARES Center. Standing for **COVID-19 Answers, Resources, Evaluation and Self-reporting** we are providing this center to streamline communications in an effort to mitigate the spread of the virus on our campuses. The center provides *answers* to your *COVID-19* related questions; a way for you to *self-report* your test results, symptoms, and quarantine directions due to COVID-19 exposure; *evaluation* of your situation; and *resources* for your COVID-19 related academic, employment and on-campus notification needs.

There are several ways to reach the CARES Center:

- Complete the CARES Center COVID-19 self-reporting form available through the MyGeorgiaSouthern portal under the tile titled "COVID-19 Information & Resources."
- Use the MyGS mobile app
- Call 912-478-CARE
- Email covidsupport@georgiasouthern.edu
- Find a link to the CARES Center at <https://www.georgiasouthern.edu/covid-19-information/>

2: Georgia Southern Health Services is ready and currently providing testing for students.

Testing students and tracking positive cases of COVID-19 remain important parts of keeping our community safe. Georgia Southern's Health Services Center has been, and will continue to be, able to test COVID-19 symptomatic students this fall with several testing options including rapid test results. For employees, any person who wants a test can be tested through one of the Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH) test centers. Locate and contact the test center nearest to you at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-testingdirect-patient-lines>. Additionally, testing is offered through local medical providers, urgent care, and now at local drugstores. We will keep you updated as more testing options and information become available.

3. We are aware that many parents of school-aged children are dealing with unique decisions and circumstances right now.

University officials, especially in Human Resources, are continuing to monitor the situation closely and University leadership meets regularly with leadership of the local school systems to stay abreast of plans. Please check the Human Resources website [HERE](#) for more information about options for parents of school-aged children and updated policies related to this situation (scroll to the bottom of the page).

Need help finding quality child care that is open? Call 1-877-ALL GA Kids (1-877-255-4254) or go to <https://families.decal.ga.gov/ChildCare/Search> to find child care or Pre-K programs near you.

4. Face-coverings are to be worn inside and outside where six feet social distancing may not always be possible.

All Georgia Southern faculty, staff, students, and visitors are now required to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. This means wherever you are on campus, if there's a chance you will come within six feet of someone else, (for instance, passing one another in a hallway), face coverings must be worn. Face covering use will be in addition to, and is not a substitute for, social distancing.

Face coverings are not required in one's own dorm room or suite, when alone in an enclosed office or study room, or in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met.

5. If "enforcement" of the face-coverings requirement is necessary, it should be carried out with civility and respect.

The university will use messaging, signage and peer communication to remind others of the requirement to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Appropriate use of face masks or coverings is critical in minimizing risks to others near you. You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you have no symptoms. The mask or cloth face

covering is not a substitute for social distancing and should be considered as just one precaution people should take to ensure our community remains healthy.

Faculty should use their classroom management expertise and training when working with students who are not following protocols. Anyone not using a face covering when required can be asked to wear one or leave the area. Repeated refusal to comply could be considered a disruption and may result in discipline through the applicable conduct code for faculty, staff or students.