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Five Things You Should Know This Week

University Communications and Marketing

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Dec. 7, 2020

As we continue with the fall semester in accordance with our Return to Campus plan, here are **Five Six Things You Should Know This Week**:

1. Free COVID testing remains available in Chatham and Bulloch counties

The Georgia Department of Public Health continues to offer free COVID-19 testing in Chatham and Bulloch counties. In Chatham County, an appointment is now required for all COVID-19 testing by the Chatham County Health Department. Schedule online or by calling 912-230-9744. In Bulloch County, testing is available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., with 10:30-11 a.m. set aside specifically for Georgia Southern faculty, staff and students. Register for either location online or call 855-473-4374. Find out more at <https://www.sehdph.org/covid-19/where-and-when-can-i-receive-free-covid-19-testing/>

2. Continue encouraging each other to contact the CARES Center when necessary

The [CARES Center \(for COVID-19 self-reporting\)](#), which *will* be staffed during the holiday break, continues to be an important university resource that not only provides university officials real-time indication about COVID-19's impact on our campuses, but also initiates a support system for the student's benefit to assure their wellbeing and academic success. The CARES Center's ability to mitigate the spread of the virus on our campuses relies on the university community's willingness to be honest and forthcoming with information. In order to monitor public health, it is important that students and employees are encouraged to contact the CARES Center to report they:

- Have tested positive for COVID-19, or
- Are experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms, or
- Were notified they are a close contact with a COVID-19 positive case.

There are several ways to reach the CARES Center:

- Use the MyGS mobile app
- Complete the CARES Center COVID-19 self-reporting form available through the MyGeorgiaSouthern portal under the tile titled "COVID-19 Information & Resources."
- Call 912-478-CARE (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- Email covidsupport@georgiasouthern.edu

3. Fall 2020 commencement ceremonies start this week

Following all health and safety protocols, Georgia Southern looks forward to hosting five face-to-face commencement ceremonies beginning on Sunday, December 13. CDC and GDPH guidelines will be strictly adhered to, and all participants are expected to wear a face covering. Additionally, all

staff working the ceremonies will be screened as they enter the facility. Find out more at www.GeorgiaSouthern.edu/commencement

4. Quarantine Guidance

We are aware of the updated guidance related to quarantine length requirements which was released by CDC last week and adopted by the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) on December 4. We are consulting with DPH to determine how to best apply these new recommendations to our current processes. Once we have adopted a plan to implement the new guidance for our students, faculty and staff, we will communicate those changes to the campus community. Until that time, we will continue to apply the 14-day quarantine rule that has been in place for the past several months.

5. Update on Nursing/Chemistry Building

Cleanup and restoration of the Nursing/Chemistry building continues after a sprinkler system activation last week. Power, HVAC and life safety systems were restored on Friday. The building is currently accessible to faculty and staff only. Faculty and staff with offices or labs affected by the incident should speak with the dean of the College of Science and Mathematics before accessing their spaces. Students with questions related to finals week should contact their professors.

6. Prepare your offices for a deep cleaning over the break

The Division of Facilities Services will deep clean offices and all campus public areas during the holiday break. To assist, faculty, staff and students are asked to be mindful of the following items before heading home for the winter break:

1. Be sure to turn off and unplug all electronic items, but do not unplug refrigerators!
2. Close all window blinds.
3. Residential students should turn their thermostat to the heat mode and set it at 65 degrees.
4. Do not leave any perishable food behind.
5. Take out your trash. Faculty and staff may leave office trash cans outside of their office door. Students should take all trash (kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom) to the residential complex dumpsters.