Savannah State University (SSU) will open fall 2021 with a continued commitment to the health and safety of all members of the campus community. In alignment with updated guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and University System of Georgia (USG), the following updated operating guidelines will be implemented.

**GENERAL COVID-19 UPDATE**

SSU recognizes COVID-19 vaccines offer safe, effective protection and urges all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to get vaccinated either on campus or with a local provider. **Additionally, everyone is encouraged to wear a mask or face covering while inside campus facilities.**

**COVID-19 RELATED LEAVE**

COVID-19-specific leave for isolation and quarantine is no longer available.

- Employees who must isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19 illness or exposure may telework during this time with the approval of their supervisor. The nature of their position influences whether an employee is able to telework since some positions are not able to be performed remotely.
  - Any change in modality for a class requires the approval of the Provost’s office. Change in modality is subject to an end date and is correlated to isolation or quarantine timelines.
  - Department chairs will make arrangements for class coverage when faculty are unable to teach due to illness.
  - Fully vaccinated individuals do not have to quarantine.
- When telework is not possible, employees who must isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19 must use their accumulated leave to be away from work.

**Reminder:** No institution may change the overall modality of their instruction.
Employees may continue to use COVID-19 Vaccine leave in order to receive the vaccine and if they experience side effects from receiving the vaccine. The COVID-19 Vaccine leave is not permanent leave and may conclude as early as August 29, 2021 at the end of the State of Emergency for Continued COVID-19 Economic Recovery declared in the Governor’s Executive Order No. 06.30.21.01. We encourage employees who have not yet received a COVID-19 vaccine to do so and to use this leave while it is available.

An employee may take up to 8 hours of Non-Closure Emergency Leave for the purpose of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, an employee may also take up to 16 hours of Non-Closure Emergency Leave if he or she receives a COVID-19 vaccine and experiences severe negative side effects that prohibit the performance of their duties of employment.

COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING
We will continue to follow our existing practices related to contact tracing/notification. The CARES Office staff will be responsible for contact tracing/contact notification.

QUARANTINE and ISOLATION
In alignment with DPH guidelines, SSU will update its quarantine and isolation protocols as follows:

**Quarantine for Vaccinated Individuals**
Fully vaccinated individuals **DO NOT** need to quarantine, but should follow basic prevention measures:
- Wear a mask
- Social distance
- Avoid crowds
- Wash hands frequently

**Quarantine for Individual Not Vaccinated for COVID-19**
Individuals not vaccinated and without symptoms should follow these measures:
- Quarantine at home and stay away from others for 7 full days
- Schedule a COVID-19 test on campus, or with a local provider after quarantining for 7 full days
- Receive a negative COVID-19 test result
- Discontinue quarantine after negative test result, but continue to monitor for symptoms and wear a mask

**Individuals Not Vaccinated with Symptoms Should Follow These Measures:**
- Quarantine at home and stay away from others
- Schedule a COVID-19 test on campus, or with a local provider
- Receive a negative COVID-19 test result, follow the quarantine guidelines for individuals not vaccinated without symptoms
• Receive a positive COVID-19 test result and follow the isolation guidelines for testing positive for COVID-19

**Isolation for Vaccinated and/or Non-Vaccinated Individuals**
If you test positive for COVID-19, regardless of whether you are fully vaccinated, follow the measures below:
• Self-isolate for 10 full days
• Wear a mask if you must come in contact with other people (e.g., sharing a vehicle)
• Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds or use alcohol-based sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
• Monitor your symptoms
• Schedule a COVID-19 test on campus or with a local provider
• Receive a negative COVID-19 test result
• Discontinue isolation if you do not have symptoms

**VACCINES AND TESTING**
SSU will continue to ensure vaccine availability to faculty, staff, and students through the VAX Clinic located in the King Frazier Student Center Ballroom. Savannah State will not assess COVID-19 vaccination rates for the institution. To receive the COVID-19 Vaccine, please use the link below to schedule an appointment

https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/COVID19VaccineClinic@savannahstate.edu/bookings/.

SSU’s COVID-19 Testing Center located in Harris Hall will remain open during the fall and available to offer testing services to faculty, staff and students. For a COVID-19 test, please use the link below to schedule an appointment

https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/COVID19@savannahstate.edu/bookings/.

Please call 912-358-4673 for additional information and questions regarding COVID-19 testing and vaccines.

All guidance listed here is subject to change based on recommendations from the Georgia Department of Public Health and the University System of Georgia. Savannah State University reserves the right to adjust plans as necessary.