



## Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 313

**To:** Virginia Tech Undergraduate Students  
**From:** Timothy D. Sands  
**Date:** September 18, 2020  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Prevalence Testing Program for Undergraduate Students

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This Presidential Policy Memorandum establishes a Prevalence Testing Program for all undergraduate students in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program's participants, administration, and enforcement are outlined below.

Given the dynamic nature of COVID-19, Virginia Tech will implement a required Prevalence Testing Program for the Blacksburg campus. The goal of this testing program is to reduce unintentional spread of the virus among Virginia Tech students and other community members who may be asymptomatic. In addition, this program will aid Virginia Tech in monitoring patterns that influence public health interventions related to our campus.

All undergraduate students (both residential and off-campus) are included in this program. Enrolled students who do not reside in Blacksburg are not included in this program.

The Office of Emergency Management oversees the Prevalence Testing Program, working closely with active support from Student Affairs. Each week, a random sample of students will be selected for testing.

The Virginia Tech COVID-19 Prevalence Testing Program will operate as follows:

- If selected, the student will receive an e-mail and/or notification on Wednesday requiring that they schedule a testing date/time by Friday at noon. They will be required to complete the test by 4 p.m. on Friday the following week. There will be no cost to the student for this test.
- Once an identified time is selected, the student will be provided directions to the testing location and instructions for any related documentation.
- A student who tests positive will be contacted to discuss appropriate public health decisions and will be asked to follow the direction provided by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). In accordance with the university testing protocol, positive test results will be reported to VDH. If the test negative, no action is required.

Since this is a required program, students who fail to participate as requested will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

The Prevalence Testing Program for Undergraduate Students is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded by the President.

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