

## Introduction

Barton College seeks to start the Spring Semester on the best possible footing. The ability to open the semester smoothly, with students fully engaged in their classes and the activities of the College, depends on limiting the number of students who return to campus with COVID. For that reason, all students will be expected to produce a recent negative COVID test, or evidence that they have recovered from a positive test, prior to returning to campus. The questions below explain the policy further:

## FAQ

1) Who must have a recent negative test result before returning to the College for spring semester? All students who are enrolled in any classes taught on campus must produce a recent negative COVID test prior to returning to campus for spring semester, or provide evidence of a positive test within the 90 days prior to the student's arrival date. This requirement also includes any students who live on campus even if they are enrolled in all online courses, and any student involved in on-campus activities (athletics, clubs and organizations, fraternities or sororities, etc.), even if they are in fully online courses.

2) What is a "recent negative COVID test"? A "recent negative COVID test" is a test that

- was administered not more than 6 days prior to the student's return to campus, or
- whose result is delivered not more than 4 days prior to the student's return to campus, and
- which shows that the student does not have an active case of COVID.

In the period between the administration of the test and the return to campus, the student should not have close contact with any people outside their personal bubble.

3) How is the return to campus date determined? That date is the date upon which a student begins significant on-campus activity associated with spring semester. For students who do not live on campus and/or are not required to return prior to the semester's beginning, the date is January 19th. For students living in the residence halls but not required to return early, that date is January 16th. For students required to return early because of athletics or other official college responsibility, the date is the date on which their formal activities begin.

4) How is the test result verified? The student must provide an electronic copy to the College prior to setting foot on campus. The test result, positive or negative, must be submitted using the Magnus Health app.

5) What if a student cannot produce a test result? If a student cannot produce a test result, that student cannot return to campus or attend classes. It is the student's responsibility to procure a test. Students can find [testing sites in North Carolina here](#). If a student struggles to get a test within the required timeline, they should contact the COVID Nurse Hotline: 252.668.0858. The Hotline will be staffed beginning on January 4, 2021. Students who do not provide a test may not attend class, and are responsible for making up missed work. Faculty will not provide simultaneous online content to students who do not provide a test result and are therefore unable to attend class.

- 6) What if a student has a positive result when taking the test within 6 days of return to campus? Any student with a positive test should report it immediately to the COVID nurse line at 252-668-0858. That student should not return to campus until cleared to do so by Barton's health care professionals. Faculty will work with those students until they can safely return to campus.
- 7) Will a "recent negative COVID test" count as an initial surveillance test for student athletes? Yes, a recent negative test will be sufficient for student-athletes whose sport requires an initial surveillance test to enter the competitive athletic season window.
- 8) When and where should international students get a test? Barton College will accept a test taken in the United States or in their home country as long as it meets the recency criteria listed in #2 above. Test results must be in English.
- 9) Does a recent negative test change other COVID-related expectations for students? No, all other protocols will remain in place for students who provide a recent negative test.
- 10) Who pays for the COVID test? The student is responsible for the costs of the test.

**Please direct any questions about this policy to:**

**[healthcenter@barton.edu](mailto:healthcenter@barton.edu)**