

USAC Web Submissions - Received 10/2/2023

Idea/Question #1:

With COVID rising, why does UR not require students and employees to have negative tests before returning to the classroom or workplace? Also, is there a plan to have free test kits or at least encourage students to order them through the government as most are probably not aware of that option and do not want to spend money for kits (as I have been told)?

Rationale/Reason:

People are still getting very sick and dying of COVID.

Response:

We continue to monitor COVID-19 data from the Virginia Department of Health and the CDC. According to the CDC, the COVID-19 community levels for our area remain low. Public health guidance, including that from VDH does not require or recommend that people test negative before returning to work or the classroom. Instead, the guidance is to stay at home and isolate for 5 days from the date of symptom onset. We appreciate the suggestion to make members of the campus community aware of the availability of free test kits from the federal government. Additionally, both flu and COVID-19 vaccines will be available to employees at no cost during the upcoming health benefit fair.

Here is a link to the Virginia Department of Health guidance on isolation: [What to do if you have confirmed or suspected COVID-19? - Coronavirus \(virginia.gov\)](#) The guidance states:

If you test positive for COVID-19 and have symptoms – you may end after day 5 if:

You are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication)

Your symptoms are improving

The University's COVID-19 webpage directs staff and faculty to follow the Virginia Department of Health and CDC guidance on isolation and provides links to both. We continue to encourage staff and faculty to stay at home if they are not feeling well.

The University has a limited supply of masks available and departments can order masks as they would other office supplies.

Idea/question #2 :

Are staff no longer able to receive every 10th meal at the Dining Hall for free?

Rationale/reason:

There are several staff members in our division that have reached out to me to ask whether the 10th meal perk at the Dining Hall has been removed. Several individuals have noticed that their meals are no longer being counted and are sad that the perk has seemingly gone away over the past couple of months as it was truly appreciated!

Response:

The original issue started with a glitch in the new point of sale system which was implemented in July. The issue was resolved last week and I believe they are swiping the "Meal Deal" if the person requests as of now.