To help protect the health of our students, staff, faculty and the surrounding community, the University of Michigan’s Winter Term COVID-19 Testing Plan includes major increases in asymptomatic testing that will be mandatory for some students, and expands access for many individuals in the university community.

The university will implement a mandatory weekly testing program for all undergraduates who live on campus or come to campus to attend in-person classes or activities, use facilities or work on campus. Compliance with mandatory testing requirements will be linked to M-Card activation and access. Free weekly asymptomatic virus testing will also be widely available to many groups as detailed below. Existing testing initiatives including surveillance testing, quarantine testing, symptomatic testing, and the testing of those exposed to persons with COVID-19 will continue.

Over the next several weeks, the Campus Health Response Committee testing team will work to finalize the details of the plan before the start of the winter term.

The winter plan was informed by recommendations from a proposal developed by the School of Public Health Advisory Group with input from the COVID-19 Campus Health Response Committee.

The plan includes:

• The requirement that all residence hall residents (undergraduates and graduates) have a negative test result prior to move-in for the winter term.

• Weekly mandatory testing for all undergraduate students who live in residence halls.

• Weekly mandatory testing for all undergraduate students who come to campus to attend in-person classes or activities (e.g., doing research), use facilities (e.g. libraries, unions, Rec Sports) or work on campus. Testing for this group prior to starting any on-campus activities also is required and will be made available.

• The requirement that undergraduate students moving out of the residence halls have a negative test result before returning to their permanent residence. For all other students, a negative test result is recommended before returning to their permanent residence.

• Weekly asymptomatic testing available for all instructional faculty with in-person teaching and for staff working on campus.

• Weekly asymptomatic testing available for all students (graduate, professional and undergraduate) who are not otherwise covered by a mandatory program.

• Expansion of testing options for individuals in quarantine to include students living off campus and not using U-M quarantine housing.

• Surveillance testing will continue for those not undergoing mandatory weekly testing.

• Symptomatic testing will continue for symptomatic individuals and those who have had close contact with infected persons through University Health Service and Occupational Health Services.

Some recommendations require additional consideration and discussion and have not yet been adopted, including mandatory entry testing for all instructional faculty and graduate student instructors with in-person teaching, and weekly mandatory testing for those teaching in settings where certain classroom mitigation policies are exempt (e.g. certain music and dance classes).

In addition, U-M officials are in discussion with students in congregate living facilities including fraternity and sorority life, on how to collaborate on the provision of campus entry testing and organized weekly testing programs for them as well.