

As Meredith College nears the end of the fall semester, the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff remain our top priorities. Thank you for the vigilance and adaptability you have all demonstrated to help keep our community safe during the pandemic.

As you know, in-person instruction ends prior to the Thanksgiving break. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services [recommends having a screening for COVID-19 three to four days prior to travel or attending family gatherings.](#)

Meredith College is making a limited number of COVID-19 tests available for resident students. These are rapid antigen tests, which detect the presence of a specific viral antigen, which implies current viral infection. Testing prior to Thanksgiving break can help ensure our students' safe departure, protect loved ones, and support home communities.

Who should sign up for exit testing:

Resident students (both those residing in the residence halls and the Oaks apartments) are the focus of this effort as they are the group traveling during break. Commuters that are asymptomatic and have not had an exposure but still wish to be tested before returning home are encouraged to use the [Wake County COVID testing website](#) to find a location and time that works best for you at an off-campus location. Students should not sign up for exit testing if they have tested positive in the last 90 days, are currently in quarantine, or have already returned home. We have a limited number of tests and they will be made available by appointment on a first come, first serve basis.

More about the type of test being used for exit testing:

Antigen tests detect the presence of a specific viral antigen that implies current viral infection. Rapid antigen tests perform best when the person has symptoms or is tested in the early stages of infection when viral load is generally highest. COVID antigen tests are less sensitive than diagnostic PCR tests. Rapid antigen tests demonstrate sensitivity around 84 percent compared to PCR. Positive results are usually accurate, but false negatives can occur. As a result, a provider may recommend a follow-up PCR test to confirm your results. For more information on this type of COVID-19 test, please visit the [CDC's antigen test guidelines](#).

When considering an antigen test for screening, please remember:

- o A negative test only gives you information for that point in time. A negative test does not mean you will remain negative at any time point after that test.
- o Antigen screening tests may miss some infections, particularly if done using rapid or point-of-care tests.
- o **Even if you have a negative test, you should wear a mask, physically distance, avoid crowds and indoor crowded places, wash your hands frequently, monitor yourself for symptoms, and minimize contact with people at high risk of complications of COVID-19.**

How long will it take to get my results?

You should anticipate them being reported to you within the same business day of your test.

What if I cannot go for testing during one of the times listed?

The Health Center has a limited number of tests and they will be made available on a first come, first served basis. If you are unable to find a time for on-campus testing that works for you and you would still like to be tested, please visit the [Wake County COVID testing website](#) to find a location and time that works best for you at an off-campus location.

Resident students may use [this link](#) to sign up for exit antigen testing.

During break and beyond, Meredith College encourages all of its community members to continue adhering to our [Community Standards](#), which have been put in place to help stop the spread of COVID-19. We are proud that students, faculty, and staff have followed these standards, helping us to have a successful fall semester despite a global health crisis.

We recommend that you also review the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services's [guidance for a safer Thanksgiving](#).

Thank you for your continued efforts to help reduce COVID-19's impact on the Meredith College community and beyond.