

Measures Students Can Take to Reduce Risk of a Surge in Cases after Spring Break:

PROTECT
TEXAS
TOGETHER

- Participate in PCT testing before and after spring break travel and as frequently as possible while on campus
- If symptomatic or in contact with someone who is symptomatic or a known positive, isolate and plan to get tested
- Wear masks, preferably two, whenever you are around individuals outside of your household (especially when indoors)
- Avoid indoor dining, bars, and gyms
- Avoid indoor gatherings with members outside of your household
- Quarantine and test before joining another household, returning home to family members, etc.



What to Know About Spring Break 2021 and COVID-19:

- If student transmission levels remain similar to what has been observed so far, we may see a surge in cases in the next month. This has the potential to be compounded by a surge in imported cases following students returning from spring break or engaging in riskier behavior over the spring break.
- Mask-wearing, avoiding indoor dining/gatherings, improving ventilation, and frequent testing are the best way to prevent a surge in cases.
- Mutations are expected, all viruses mutate. Mutations that cause the virus to be more contagious, more severe, or reduce vaccine efficacy are more likely to occur when high levels of virus are circulating. The best way to prevent new variants from forming is to prevent being infected and transmitting the virus.
- A more contagious COVID-19 variant, known as B.1.1.7, is increasing among positive cases at UT Austin. Estimates from UT testing data indicate that the variant is significantly more transmissible than the original strain.
- We don't know the prevalence of variants in the city of Austin, but a more contagious variant could reverse gains the city has made in reducing cases and hospitalizations, and UT students can help prevent spillover into the city by reducing risky interactions in the community (such as indoor dining/bars and indoor gatherings).
- Currently authorized vaccines are expected to be equally as effective in B.1.1.7.
- To read the full paper on the B1.1.7 variant and learn more about the UT COVID-19 Modeling Consortium's estimates, go [here](#).



HO - Spring Break COVID-19 - 03102021

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Counseling and Mental Health Center
and University Health Services

Division of Student Affairs



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