

FALL SEMESTER

FACULTY & STAFF
TOWN HALL

Limited In-Person Attendance

University Hall Auditorium

Virtual Attendance

Link will be provided

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021 | 10:00-11:00 A.M.

LEARN MORE

August 2, 2021



FROM THE EXPERTS: Answering new COVID questions

UAB experts Jeanne Marrazzo, M.D., director of UAB's Division of Infectious Diseases, Sarah Nafziger, M.D., vice president of UAB Hospital Clinical Services, and Michael Saag, M.D., director of the Center for AIDS Research, answer some of today's most common questions about COVID, the Delta variant, vaccines, masking and more in these ► YouTube videos — perfect for sharing on social.

Delta variant 411

► **Just how contagious is the new Delta variant?**
Marrazzo explains that the rapidly spreading variant is more infectious than both smallpox and Ebola.

► **What will protect me from getting infected?**
Two words, Nafziger says: Get vaccinated. Vaccinations are the key to ending the pandemic. Schedule yours today.

Facts about case numbers

► **What are breakthrough cases?**
Delta is so contagious that it can spread between vaccinated persons, explains Saag. Exposed or showing symptoms? Report online.

► **Why are cases so high in the Southeast?**
The answer is simple: Cases are high because our vaccination coverage is too low, especially in Alabama, Marrazzo says.

The rundown on vaccinations

► **If I can still catch Delta, what's the point in getting vaccinated now?**
The vaccine protects you from extreme sickness, hospitalization and even death, Saag explains — it could mean the difference between cold-like symptoms and a ventilator.

► **If I'm vaccinated, why do I have to mask?**
Nafziger says she gets it — we're all tired of the pandemic. But combining a high vaccination rate with masking, which decreases the spread of the Delta variant, is the key to ending this pandemic.

► **What would life be like if everyone was vaccinated?**
We could have a relatively normal fall if we achieve the winning combination: Getting everyone vaccinated and continuing to mask for the time being, Marrazzo explains.

Be a part of the solution. Schedule a vaccine appointment at go.uab.edu/vaccines.



► What does all this mean for UAB?

Our situation at UAB is fluid, Nafziger explains. Experts continue to review data and craft reasonable safety guidelines, all with the goal of keeping Blazers together safely.

UAB continues to track and report campus COVID cases. From July 23-29, 11 new positive cases were reported among non-clinical faculty and staff; 55 new positive cases were reported among clinical enterprise employees and 16 new positive cases were reported among students.

More news for you



COVID emergency room visits rise as Delta variant spreads

Due to the highly contagious Delta variant, Alabama emergency departments continue to report more COVID-19 admissions, especially among unvaccinated persons. Reduce your chance of severe illness and hospitalization by getting vaccinated, and for conditions or illness that might not require emergency care, consider options outside of the emergency room, such as UAB Medicine Urgent Care and UAB Medicine's network of primary care physicians, with facilities throughout the metro area.



How an epidemiologist uses social media to build trust and communicate

Bertha Hidalgo, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology, explains how she is using WhatsApp and Facebook in two current studies and shares advice on using social media for research.

Employee appreciation event postponed

The UAB Employee Appreciation Event scheduled Aug. 17 on the Campus Green is postponed indefinitely as UAB adjusts safety precautions to combat Delta variant spread. Details on rescheduling to come in the eReporter. The employee town hall will continue as scheduled.

5 things to know before you order UAB swag for fall

If your school or unit wants new branded promotional items and apparel for fall semester, these guidelines can help you avoid delays and disappointment.

Learn more about Professional Studies graduate certificates

Hear ways you can hone your research communication or lab management skills and enhance your mentoring, leadership or professional development during a Zoom session with the Graduate School's Office of Professional Studies and Experiential Learning. Four sessions available starting Aug. 9.

More news online

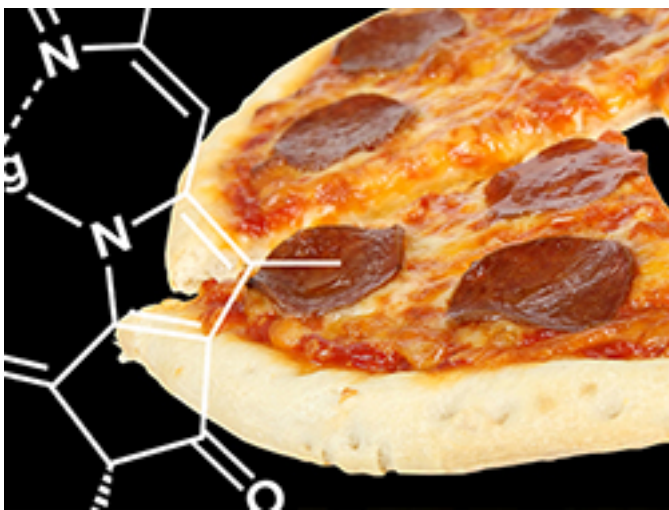
Get campus news at uab.edu/reporter and COVID-19 updates at uab.edu/uabunited. If you have news you want to share with UAB faculty and staff, use the Request Publicity form online.

Mark your calendars



What role does xanthine oxidase play in sickle cell disease? Find out Aug. 10

Adam C. Straub, Ph.D., associate professor of pharmacology and chemical biology and director of the Center for Microvascular Research in the Heart, Lung, Blood and Vascular Medicine Institute at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, will present on the roles of xanthine oxidase in sickle cell disease 8:30 a.m. Aug. 10 as part of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center's August speaker series.



Recognize and respond to your hunger cues

Ever eat when you're not actually hungry? Or suddenly become hungry? It's likely you're missing your body's hunger cues. Hear Nutrition Sciences' José Fernández, Ph.D., and Tara Harman discuss how to become mentally present and take control of your hunger 7 p.m. Aug. 10 on Zoom.

Session to showcase telehealth expertise, opportunities

Learn, engage in discussion and identify potential cross-institutional partnerships during a CCTS Zoom session Aug. 12. Presenters will provide a 3-minute overview of their Telehealth expertise/interest followed by moderated group dialog. To present, register by Aug. 5. Details online.

Join the AI Against Cancer Data Science Hackathon Aug. 9-10

Data scientists, cancer researchers, oncologists and other clinical and translational researchers can form teams to address cancer data science challenges and explore registry, clinical and genomic data from publicly available sources. Registration is free but limited.

Check the campus calendar for more events

Lectures	Arts	Athletics
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