



SOUTHERN VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY  
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## Game-changing Rapid Test Technology for 2021 Spring Semester

Dear Campus Community,

We are thrilled to announce the anticipated addition of a game-changing new technology coming to campus this Spring: a new COVID-19 rapid test that would enable safe, quick, and painless universal testing—potentially for every person on our campus, every week of the semester, based on our partner’s supply commitment.

### **WHAT DOES NEW RAPID TEST TECHNOLOGY MEAN FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER?**

This means that we will be able to do the high-level testing required for athletics and performing arts. This means practices, scrimmages, games, and competitions. This means concerts, musicals, plays, and other performances. This means doing an even better job of protecting our campus by quickly identifying and isolating infections and exposures. This means increased safety in returning to campus and to the classroom.

In short, we believe this new testing technology means a “bridge”—of increased protection and increased opportunity—between now and the time that universal vaccination becomes available.

### **HALF-WAY HOME**

Until everyone can be vaccinated, we will still need to be careful. We will still need to follow our Four Pillars. Anyone who tests positive, along with any close contacts, will still need to follow the isolation and quarantine protocols. Fans and audiences will still need to be appropriately limited—so we will work to stream as many events as possible so that family and friends can watch and cheer for you remotely. But access to this new technology will enable weekly universal testing that will create opportunities for playing and performing that were not available this semester. This new rapid test gets us half-way home until the vaccine arrives.

The end game is still universal vaccination, and the government will control the timing on vaccines. Until then, this game-changing new testing technology will strengthen our protection from COVID-19 and increase our opportunities for practice, performance, and competition.

Spring is coming. We can’t wait!

Reed N. Wilcox

President  
Southern Virginia University