

Dear TTUHSC El Paso family,

Since the start of the pandemic, we have strived as a campus community to share timely information that keeps your health and safety as a primary focus. Over the weekend, El Paso County moved from “moderate” to “substantial” community transmission on the CDC’s COVID-19 data tracker. At the “substantial” level, the CDC recommends everyone, including fully vaccinated people, wear masks in public indoor settings to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Throughout the pandemic, we have implemented CDC guidelines and will continue to do so. Therefore, I highly recommend that all students, faculty, staff and visitors wear masks in all indoor settings on campus effective immediately.

The delta variant is more transmissible than many other viruses, even among those who have been vaccinated. We want to do everything we can to protect your health and prevent a surge in El Paso, which is why I’m recommending the return to mask-wearing indoors.

Phase 1

We will remain in Phase 1 (normal operations) of our return-to-campus operational plan. There’s no change to our requirement to wear masks in patient care units, ambulatory clinic spaces and procedural areas: We have always masked in our clinics during the pandemic and will continue to do so.

Symptoms, safety precautions and reporting

Delta variant symptoms may be similar to those of the common cold. If you have cold-like symptoms – even a little snuffle – **please stay home and get tested for COVID-19**. There is a list of testing locations at epstrong.org/testing.php.

As we move forward, take time to prevent spread of the virus by washing your hands often, physically distancing when possible, and covering coughs and sneezes.

For the latest information about COVID-19 operational plans, recommendations, requirements and reporting procedures at TTUHSC El Paso, visit our COVID-19 website at ttuhscep.edu/coronavirus. If you have questions about sick leave, please contact the Human Resources Department at 915-215-4145.

Thank you for your outstanding cooperation during the ongoing pandemic – we have made great strides in our vaccination efforts across the county, and TTUHSC El Paso stands as a model of excellence for public health and health education. Let’s continue working together to keep our university – and our community – safe and healthy.



Richard Lange, M.D., M.B.A.