

Student Health Services

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WCU Testing Methodology

We will be utilizing a randomized public health surveillance screening for a proportion of our unvaccinated student population to monitor for increasing or decreasing prevalence. As part of the screening, we have developed a plan to randomly select a sample of our non-athlete students (unvaccinated and unknown vaccination status) on a rolling basis to assess local infection rates and trends. (Source: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/sars-cov2-testing-strategies.html</u>)

With an unknown population size and a confidence level of 99% (z score of 2.58), a standard deviation of 0.5, and a confidence interval of 95%, the sample size we would need is 664. With our current known population size of 7,690 (non-athlete students who are not vaccinated or for whom vaccination status has not been determined; this number will decrease as students upload their data), the weekly tested sample size needed is 611.

In order to acclimate students to the testing protocols, however, we will test at a 10% rate (which is higher than the required sample size) for at least the initial 2-3 weeks of the semester. As the number of vaccinated students increases, the sample size will be adjusted accordingly.

In addition, as noted in NCAA guidelines, all student athletes for whom vaccination status has not been determined should be tested three times per week. This will result in an additional 561 tests per week for athletes using current known vaccination rates.

As noted by the CDC, surveillance testing is intended to identify unvaccinated people with COVID-19 who are asymptomatic and do not have known, suspected, or reported exposure to SARS-CoV-2. Surveillance testing helps to identify unknown cases so that we can implement measures to prevent further transmission.