



Knowledge that will change your world

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 9, 2020

To: State Finance Director

From: Bob Phillips, Executive Director, GuideSafe™ Testing

Re: Testing for Alabama and GuideSafe™ Program Progress Report as of October 31, 2020

The GuideSafe™ Testing program continued to provide “sentinel” testing services to students, faculty, and staff at higher education institutions around the state during September. Through the end of the month, we were nearing 20,000 sentinel tests provided during the semester, with a state wide positive test prevalence of approximately 0.55%.

Our team continued to partner with campus representatives and continually adjusted to institutional testing demands throughout the month in various ways. For some schools, we expanded hours of operation at the testing location. At others, we added more testing dates. There has been excellent collaboration and engagement between our team and the various school representatives.

At this stage, we have a consistent testing schedule and rhythm. We modify our invitation randomization percentages and delivery schedule each week based on prior week’s testing data, with the intent of continually delivering a representative sample of asymptomatic COVID-19 prevalence.

Our team is also working to document the lessons learned during entry and sentinel testing so far, so that we are prepared to continue offering testing services that will be as effective and efficient as possible. We are also working with our laboratory partners at UAB and USA to incorporate additional testing instrumentation to enhance the level and scope of testing available in our state.