

The University of Delaware *President's Report for 2021* highlights the work of the Emergency Management and the Environmental Health and Safety departments.

University of Delaware President Assanis recently released the [President's Report for 2021](#). The report included several acknowledgements for the work performed by the staff of Emergency Management and Environmental Health and Safety. First, a [state-of-the-art testing program](#) was implemented which has successfully and rapidly identified COVID-positive cases on campus so individuals could receive care from Student Health Services and to ensure there was no extensive spread of the virus. Emergency Management was responsible for developing a plan which included the opening of two new COVID-19 Testing Centers at Clayton Hall and the Harker ISE Lab. Approximately thirty new employees were hired, trained, and staff these Testing Centers which administer tests for faculty, staff, and students. This initiative was a true partnership between Emergency Management, the College of Health Sciences, the School of Nursing, the Allen Lab and many others who were instrumental in the success of the testing program. Over 20,000 asymptomatic tests were completed in 2020 and the pace has rapidly intensified in 2021.

“The tireless work of our staff, many of whom are volunteers, has been absolutely essential to the success of this effort,” said Mark Seifert, director of UD Emergency Management. “We added an entire new workforce to meet the need for on-campus surveillance testing. Facilities workers, lab workers, environmental health and safety, student nurses, and faculty volunteers from the College of Health Sciences and so many others brainstormed and developed a system that has been important to the business and academic continuity we enjoy today.”



Staff working at the Testing Centers have been critical to the success of our asymptomatic testing program on campus.

While on-campus surveillance testing was key to effectively managing COVID-19, this success was further supported by an excellent partnership fostered by UD Emergency Management. The department started an important initiative which resulted in an ongoing collaboration with the State of Delaware and New Castle County government. This project focused upon leveraging the vast testing resources of the State and County to bring COVID-19 testing to the STAR Campus, the Hollingsworth Parking Lot, and the Laird Campus. The program was a win-win for the citizens of Newark and New Castle County and

also faculty, staff, and students who have enjoyed convenient, safe, and rapid testing right on the campus. In an amazing effort, these testing venues routinely test nearly 4,000 individuals per week.



COVID-19 testing has been a staple of pandemic response and mitigation steps led by UD Emergency Management. Here, the COVID-19 testing team comprised of DEMA, the Delaware National Guard, UDPD, and UD Emergency Management gather for a team photograph at the STAR Campus. Similar events are now hosted every Saturday at STAR by New Castle County government.

In another important project, Emergency Management and Environmental Health and Safety led the way as the pandemic emerged and significantly impacted the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE). Drawing upon our existing relationship with the State of Delaware Emergency Management Agency and the Aetna Hose, Hook, and Ladder fire company, UD collected and donated 25 cases of gloves, lab coats, N-95 respirators, hand sanitizer solution, and various other forms of PPE to ensure this equipment was provided to first responders in the City of Newark and throughout Delaware. This could not have been possible without the generosity and efforts of many from various laboratories and the UD research community who supported these efforts over the course of several weeks.



Personal protective gear is provided to DEMA in March, 2020



Personal protective gear is provided to Aetna HHL in March, 2020

As more of our campus community are able to be vaccinated, we are confident of a bright future on the campus of the University of Delaware. While very optimistic, we are also steadfast in our planning for the next event and stand ready to respond to ensure the safety and wellness of all.