

Alderson Broaddus reports positive COVID-19 cases

PHILIPPI, W.Va.—August 18, 2020—Alderson Broaddus University students, faculty, and staff who returned to campus for the 150th academic year have completed required COVID-19 testing. Of the approximate 900 individuals tested, a total of five students have tested positive for the presence of COVID-19. AB moved quickly to quarantine these students to prevent any cases of community spread. Two of the five students are quarantined on campus, while the remaining three students have returned home to continue their courses virtually.

AB resumed classes on Monday, August 10, with a majority of the classes involving in-person instruction. Various measures, with the inclusion of required testing for all faculty, staff, and students, were established to properly socially distance and protect the campus community.

“The goal remains the health and well-being of the AB community. We are immediately focused on ensuring our students are safe and in a position to continue their academic careers successfully,” said President Tim Barry.

AB’s cases have involved students who are either asymptomatic or experience only minor symptoms. Anyone who has been identified as having been in close contact with infected persons has been notified and given further guidance. Students who test positive or are required to self-isolate because of known exposure are being supported and monitored by AB staff.

The goal of the required testing for those returning was to identify positive cases and potential exposures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on campus and to the community. In line with public health practices and medical and student privacy laws, only those who need to know about confirmed cases for personal health and safety reasons will be informed.

“We understand that receiving news that you need to isolate or quarantine is stressful for our students and families,” said Bruce Blankenship, AB’s COVID-19 response coordinator. “We have put safety practices in place to support our students during this time and will provide flexibility while they navigate coursework virtually.”

The Barbour County Health Department is notifying AB of all known or suspected cases. AB will continue to partner with state and local health officials to regularly monitor these students and any new cases. For more information about AB’s return to fall 2020 guidelines and plans, please visit ab.edu/coronavirus.

