

## A-State puts contact tracing into practice

TRISTAN BENNETT

NEWS EDITOR

As the semester gets into full swing, positive COVID-19 cases are nearly inevitable. The university, in partnership with NYIT, has a system in place to ensure the proper measures are taken when someone's health may be at risk.

All members of the A-State community have been asked to fill out the self-report form on the university website to notify the school of a potential COVID-19 case. This form should be submitted if one has been tested, instructed by a physician to self-quarantine or isolate, have received a positive test, been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, or have symptoms of COVID-19.

Associate director for external relations and marketing for NYIT Casey Pearce said, "One of the things that I've been hearing is A-State students, and people in general, have a hard time understanding what

close contact is. We consider someone to be in close contact if you've been within six feet of them for 15 minutes or more, regardless of whether both parties are wearing masks."

If anyone on campus becomes aware that they have been in close contact, they should fill out the self-report form as soon as possible.

Then, the contact tracing team will receive an email, and a case investigator will call the person who self-reported to gather information. They will ask for the names of anyone they have been in close contact with and a few health related questions and submit their information to the Arkansas Department of Health. The case investigator will also initiate quarantine or isolation if necessary and set up housing, food assistance and transportation if need be.

Pearce stressed the importance of cooperation with contact tracing efforts.

"When people are not honest with the contact tracers, that means we have people that are potentially infected that are still

active in our community and potentially spreading," he said.

Bill Smith, A-State chief communications officer, said the university will take actions against students who are found to be noncompliant.

"Any student who does not comply with university rules may be subject to student conduct. The same is true for safety regulations related to the current coronavirus pandemic," he said.

If case investigators determine someone must quarantine, it means they have not yet tested positive but may have been in close contact with someone who has or has been symptomatic. If that person tests negative, they still must complete a 14 day quarantine. If they test positive, they start an isolation period, which is a minimum of 10 days.

Pearce said, "The reason why there is that difference is because there can be an up to 14 day incubation period for the virus, so you can have it for a long time before you test positive for it or you show any signs."

Case investigators will

contact someone when they need to be tested. There is a testing site at the NYITCOM at Arkansas State Medical Clinic on campus. Test results on average will come back in 48 hours, and quarantine is required until a result is in.

When someone's quarantine or isolation is coming to an end, they will be contacted again for an exit interview. If it is determined that the person is not better, the isolation may be extended. Once they are better and pass the incubation period, the contact tracer will issue an ADH approved letter stating that they are no longer under isolation/quarantine.

Pearce said contact tracing is an important part of the campus's response to the virus, and it should be taken seriously.

"If the virus spreads to the point where we can't have class, events, or we can't meet the needs of students, that would force the university into some very difficult decisions," he said. "We're all in this together and it takes everybody to fight it."



Photo by: Krishnan Collins | Editor-in-Chief  
Hand sanitizer stations have been placed at door entrances to prevent the spread.

## Esports team creates supporter's T-shirt with Three Commas

A-STATE NEWS

NEWS RELEASE

The Arkansas State esports team has partnered with the North American Collegiate League (NACL) and Three Commas to produce a new

supporter's T-shirt. Along with promoting A-State's club team nationally, proceeds from the shirt will benefit the team.

NACL's president David Chen was a key player in bringing A-State's team together with Three Commas,

venture capitalist and Shark Tank star Mark Cuban's apparel company. The limited edition shirt is available on the Three Commas' website.

"We appreciate David and NACL's partnership to both raise some funds for the esports

team through these tee-shirts, but to also raise awareness of our competition club team in the gaming community," A-State's esports volunteer coach Stephanie Lott said. "We are looking forward to additional competition opportunities

this fall as we prepare for the collegiate seasons."

The Esport team hosts an on-campus tournament for all A-State students Thursday.

The "HowlNite" tournament is open to any A-State student who wants to battle. Registration

for the free-to-play Fortnite tournament is available online.

The winner of the campus-wide HowlNite receives an Astro A40 TR Headset, which is compatible on all platforms, donated by NACL.

## Student athletes lead BLM march

EMMA GOAD

NEWS WRITER

Arkansas State Athletics joined students around the nation in hosting a Black Lives Matter march on Monday, Aug. 31.

Jadyn Lewis, senior track member from Bryant, joined her teammates for this march. Lewis, who carried a sign that read, "Don't support me [on the field] if you won't support me here," spoke out against the negative comments on the official athletic Instagram page.

"A lot of our fans supported us," Lewis said. "But seeing how our other fans responded was really disheartening. A lot of them don't understand the depth of what's going on here. It's really upsetting to see that



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

Senior track athlete Jadyn Lewis marches Aug. 31. people will cheer me on at a track meet, but as soon as the uniform is off, they're ready to call me names."

Lewis said she believes that too many people are caught up in the politics of the situation instead of recognizing the fight against injustice. Fourteen percent of students on campus are black, and Lewis stated that they make up most of Arkansas State's athletics department.

"I know that a lot of athletes feel the same way I do," Lewis said. "I'm optimistic that our campus will make an effort to show the importance of the movement. I just want to see what proactive steps and conversations are going to happen post-protest."

Imani Udoumana, senior track member from Nashville,

attended the protest as well. Udoumana said she was impressed with the turnout and recognized the attention on social media, but hopes to see more understanding and awareness from campus authorities.

"It's not hard to see what's going on and to be oblivious to the pain that black and brown students are going through," Udoumana said. "I would like to see more of an effort to protect our lives and an outreach to the community to show what they're doing to protect everyone and not just some."

Lewis plans to hold another BLM march on Sept. 17 for students who were unable to make it to the first one. There will be public speakers and a voter registration table. All students are welcome to join.

## CAMPUS CRIME

TRISTAN BENNETT

NEWS EDITOR

Sept. 1 | 10:49 PM

Officers were called in reference to an alleged sexual assault that had already occurred and told there were multiple victims. Upon arrival, officers spoke to three females. The first said she met the suspect, Caleb Reid, during dinner and invited him to come to her church group. He then began to touch another one of the females on the shoulder, making her very uncomfortable. They left shortly after.

Later that evening, Reid approached the victims' car, speaking to them through the passenger side window. He reached his hand in and placed it on a victim's neck, sliding it down to the top of her breast. She removed his hand and told him she did not like that. Reid laughed.

Another victim stated that on Aug. 30, while hanging out in the lobby of 125 Dean St., Reid had repeatedly groped her.

She said he would wrap his arms around her, put his hands on her breast and pull her close to him. This was confirmed by the lobby camera, and he can be seen touching several other people. He did the same thing to the victim later on in the cafeteria.

The third victim reported that on Sept. 1, while in the Flex area, Reid and another unknown black male came and sat at the table next to her. He walked over and began to speak to her, placing his hand on her left inner thigh. He eventually stopped and returned to his table and continued to stare at her.

A victim also told police several females had contacted her about Reid, saying he seems to wait in secluded areas for females to walk by. At this point, all three victims have refused to prosecute, and they have decided the Title IX process will suffice.

Sept. 3 | 1:09 PM

University Police were dispatched to the police department in reference to a verbal assault that occurred at 125 Dean St. The victim was

determined to be Caleb Reid, a wanted suspect in a pending UPD investigation where he had been taken into custody.

Both the victim and a witness, Brandon Mcfadden, wrote a statement explaining "Lily's Brother" was yelling at Reid to stay away from his sister. He was also quoted to say he would kill Reid if he did not comply. Officers spoke with "Lily" the next day, and she provided them with her brother's name and phone number. He was contacted and advised that student conduct would be contacting him. Later on, Reid decided to pursue criminal charges, but Grant DeProw, deputy prosecuting attorney, declined to file on the case, stating that it should be filed through district court. In speaking with the suspect on the phone he said he would, "beat his face in," referring to DeProw. Heather Owens, assistant city attorney, determined the case should be filed as second degree terroristic threatening.