

## **COVID Updates – Current and Spring Planning for the Campus**

Email from Dr. Karey Pine, vice president for student affairs, to students, December 9, 2021

Good day –

This message is sent to provide the College community with current information and recommendations regarding Covid as we conclude this semester and as you consider the preparation necessary upon our return to spring semester.

### **COVID and PROTOCOLS AT PRESENT**

As the regional and national statistics are rising with regard to Covid cases, it is not surprising that our college community is also experiencing some increase in positive Covid cases. Please reference our [campus dashboard](#) for all current information regarding our active and recovered cases as well as information regarding the number of students who are on campus for their quarantine or isolation. Given the timing in the semester, the majority of students who have tested positive are choosing to quarantine and isolate at home off campus. College personnel along with students and their families are managing our current cases in a thorough manner with every expectation that these are properly contained.

Because there is an increase in Covid cases both off and on campus, please remember we each play an integral role in keeping one another safe.

1. Screen your own health and STAY HOME with symptoms.
  - a. Please monitor for all signs and symptoms of Covid. If you are experiencing any and/or are uncertain – STAY HOME. Students should contact the College's Health Center by calling (315) 655-7122, discussing your concerns, and following any directions from Health Center staff members. Employees should contact their own healthcare provider to review and follow what is recommended.
2. Mask up and MASKS UP! Please remember we expect masks to be worn and worn PROPERLY (covering the mouth and nose completely) at all times when you are inside buildings and when you are outside and cannot maintain a 6 foot distance from the person next to you.
  - a. When you are sitting down and eating or drinking AT A DINING FACILITY, you can remove your mask. It is the expectation that you have your mask on otherwise. Sitting at the table and talking with friends: Mask ON. Getting up to refill your drink or get more food: Mask ON!
  - b. If you and your roommate(s) have agreed that in your residential room you can remove your masks, you should revisit this plan to make sure you are both still agreeable to this, and can maintain 6 feet of distance while in your residential space (room, suite, etc)
3. Cleanliness is KEY! Stopping the spread of germs starts with your own hand washing and sanitizing habits.
  - a. Please use sanitizer that is available all over campus! Carry your own with you!
  - b. Wash hands properly and frequently!
  - c. Use disinfectant/sanitizing wipes and cleaners to wipe down your phones, computer keyboards, door handles, desk surfaces, and bathrooms before and after you are using the sinks!
4. Maintain APPROPRIATE DISTANCE from others.

- a. Classrooms have been set to maintain appropriate distances knowing that individuals in those spaces are properly masked and have no symptoms. Please do not move classroom set ups and be aware of distance when approaching a classmate or professor for assistance, discussion, and/or questions.
- b. Do not move furniture around at the Dining Hall. These tables have been set and spaced to promote safe gatherings.
- c. Please make sure you are maintaining the one visitor per student in a residential space on campus AND only visitors who are also residential students on the campus are permitted.
- d. If you are a residential student who is leaving for winter break one person who is masked may enter to your room only and help you gather your belongings and then immediately leave the residence.

Please know that campus enforcement of these remains in effect - and responses likely more significant for individuals found to be in violation of these protocols as they remain matters of public health. I ask your cooperation in following each carefully and your support of your friends, colleagues, and classmates in also doing so.

### **COVID and WHAT YOU CAN ANTICIPATE in SPRING**

#### **Covid Booster**

As we all shift our attention to our off-campus travels and time away during the winter break, it is also important that each of us prepare to contribute to the ongoing health and safety of our community upon return this spring. You may be seeing an increasing number of colleges and universities as well as other agencies, communities, and businesses requiring that Covid vaccine boosters are completed as part of expectations for return to the work and learning environments. As we have throughout the pandemic, the College will continue to monitor federal and county health recommendations and practices along with infection rates to make our decision on boosters prior to the opening of spring semester.

Even as we are monitoring this current development, we *strongly recommend* that fully vaccinated individuals arrange for their Covid booster during the winter break (if you have not already received one). *Everyone* who has completed the full course of the initial Covid vaccine at least six months ago is eligible to receive the booster. Please review the links here for a host of local and regional pharmacies who currently administer the booster. Appointments can be scheduled online.

CVS: [Vaccines & Immunizations | Immunization Schedule | CVS Pharmacy](#)

Kinney Drugs: [Schedule Your Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Vaccine | Kinney Drugs](#)

Walgreens: [COVID-19 and Flu Vaccination | Walgreens Immunization Services |](#)

#### **Landing Page**

WalMart: [Book COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment | Flu Shots & Immunizations -](#)

#### **Walmart.com**

Wegmans: [Wegmans Covid Vaccine Registration - Wegmans](#)

#### **Covid Testing**

All students will be required to provide proof of negative Covid tests prior to entering residences and classrooms for spring semester. Details regarding arrival appointments and testing schedules and expectations will be provided by December 31, 2021. Please monitor your Caz email for further details.

It is likely we will continue a weekly testing schedule as we open spring semester. Again, further details of the testing protocol for spring semester will be shared prior to spring opening.

### **Health Protocols**

The campus community should minimally anticipate continued adherence to our current protocols. Screening, testing, masking, cleaning, and distancing remain key to our support for the health and safety of all.

Finally, I know I represent many campus community members in thanking you all for your attention to the campus and our community this fall – we have experienced so much success with activities and events that support a more engaged and connected campus experience for all of us! Let's please finish this semester strong and also appropriately prepare for a spring semester which allows us to welcome back more campus experiences and traditions!

Take care and safe travels!

Karey

**Karey T Pine, Ed.D.**

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Vice President for Student Affairs