



January 11, 2021

To: Wabash Community
From: President Scott Feller and Dr. Ann Taylor
Re: Community Update

We hope that you have enjoyed a restful break away from Wabash. We are looking forward to the return of students, faculty, and staff for the start of spring semester classes on January 25. Today we welcome a small group of student-athletes back to Wabash – the first of several waves of arrivals as we gradually repopulate our campus.

If you have not already done so, today is the perfect day to resume using the COVID Pass app. Students in residence and faculty and staff who regularly work on campus should use the app every day.

All students must obtain a negative COVID-19 PCR test result before returning for the spring semester. Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 on or after November 1, 2020 do not have to be tested through CVS (or alternate locations), but must submit documentation of the positive test result if it was not administered by the College to covid19testing@wabash.edu in order to unlock the app.

Our IT Services professionals have built a new feature into the app for student users, which is an orange “STOP” screen. The orange signal indicates that the College has not received a negative test result from the CVS Return Ready testing program, and will be shown after entering your current exposure status, temperature, and symptoms. This new feature is only for student-athletes returning to campus to practice and for all other students before they can move into College housing.

As we return to campus, we must adhere to all of our successful fall semester mitigation strategies: practicing the 3 W’s (Wear a mask, Watch your distance, Wash your hands) and avoiding the 3 C’s (Confined spaces, Crowded places, and Close contacts). Masks or two-ply face coverings continue to be required for students, faculty, and staff in all campus buildings and outside when safe physical distancing can’t be maintained.

Based upon comments from our fall debriefing sessions, updated guidance from public health authorities, and observations from other colleges and universities, we are making adjustments, including:

1. Expanding our weekly surveillance testing program. We expect this to evolve over the first weeks of the new semester with the arrival rapid antigen tests and completion of a new testing location.
2. Shortening the length of time that a close contact must spend in quarantine, based on [new guidance](#) from the CDC. Students in quarantine who receive a negative test result on or after day five can leave quarantine on day seven, provided they are symptom free.



3. Distributing gaiters to students, based on student feedback. These are two-ply gaiters (with a filter) that are approved for use by our local health officials. All face coverings should pass the “[candle test](#),” and should be [worn properly](#) and washed regularly.
4. Amending our current guidelines for guests and events. In order to do this, we must keep our campus positivity rate in check and follow the spread of COVID in our local community. We will be seeking input when people are back on campus, and hope to be able to announce these changes in early February.

As we prepare to be together, it’s important to recognize that people may have had a wide range of experiences over the extended break. Some people are anxious to return, while others are anxious about returning. Please be aware of your own and other’s mental health in this transition, and recognize that this range is normal and that others may be in a different mental place than you.

With gratitude for all you bring to campus,

President Scott Feller

Professor Ann Taylor, Special Assistant to the President for COVID Planning and Response