



February 15, 2021

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

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Congratulations on completing another week of residential education. It is worth reminding ourselves that this is a significant achievement. The last two weeks have brought news of COVID outbreaks on campuses that have shut down face to face learning, including at schools that had navigated the fall semester successfully. Take a moment to thank those you see doing the right thing and remind others who are backsliding on distancing and masking. The path we take, hopefully to yellow and blue status, is in your hands.

Surveillance testing serves two important purposes. The first is to provide us an estimate of COVID prevalence among our students – basically the probability that any person you interact with could transmit the virus. The second is to identify and isolate those individuals with asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic disease to prevent them from spreading the virus to others. Last semester, we began the year testing about 8% of the student body weekly and ended the semester testing about 12-15% each week. With additional testing required for athletics, we began this semester testing over 50% of students.

The more testing we do, the better our estimate of the prevalence and the more asymptomatic cases we will identify. Our goal is to test every student who does not have presumed immunity at least once a week by the beginning of March. To accomplish this, we have begun using antigen tests, increased staffing, and developed systems to manage the data and meet the reporting requirements of health agencies.

We will continue to increase the number of students tested each week by integrating antigen testing into our surveillance testing. The antigen tests have the advantage of rapid results; positive cases can be identified and contact traced the same day, instead of waiting two or more days for the results to be returned. Students will receive instructions on installing an app that will report their antigen test results directly to them.

We will soon publish a dashboard that reports the impact of COVID-19 on campus operations. This web page will be updated weekly and will include the metrics listed below, as well as additional indicators such as number in quarantine and isolation, mask wearing, and details on total numbers of tests.

Surveillance Positivity	Montgomery Co. Score	COVID Pass Use Rate	Campus Status
1.0%	2.0 (Orange)	88.6%	ORANGE



We may be dealing with significant snowfall over the next couple of days that could bring challenges. Some faculty may need to teach classes virtually due to travel difficulties, but at this point we hope that everyone is accustomed to mustering resiliency and flexibility. More important, we hope you find ways to enjoy snow, whether that means building a snowman, having a snowball fight, or going for a walk to admire the wonder of our Arboretum under a blanket of fresh snow. Remind yourself that our campus looks beautiful in any weather. And consider offering to shovel sidewalks for those living around you. Acts of kindness not only benefit the recipient, they [give you a mental boost](#), too.

With gratitude for you and all you bring to campus,

President Scott Feller

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

