

Wabash.

February 22, 2021

To: Wabash Community
From: President Scott Feller and Dr. Ann Taylor
Re: Community Update for January 18, 2021

Our campus motto – Wabash Always Fights – is a call for resilience that has served us well during the pandemic, especially when last week’s weather hit campus hard. As a result, we experienced longer turnaround times for tests administered on Monday and we had to switch surveillance testing of the general student population from Tuesday to Thursday due to the heavy snowfall. But, just as we have seen throughout the year, our community stepped up. Thank you to everyone who braved the weather to administer or take tests, and a special shout-out to Sodexo Campus Services for the Herculean effort required to clear that much snow in brutally cold temperatures.

When we compete in athletics, our teams bring a WAF attitude no matter the score, but we all know that singing “Old Wabash” is extra sweet after a win by the Little Giants. This week’s surveillance testing was a crushing victory! We administered a record number of tests and are pleased to report a 0.0% positivity rate from surveillance testing. Congratulations, gentlemen! But don’t fool yourself into thinking COVID is vanquished. We did have a student in quarantine develop the disease, reminding us that the virus is endemic on campus and why it is important to strictly adhere to our isolation and quarantine program.

Your commitment to wearing masks, watching your distance, washing your hands, and avoiding crowds and close contact is paying off. Many colleges and universities are struggling to contain outbreaks right now, so your diligence in doing the right things is praiseworthy. Keep up the fight, including avoiding crowds off-campus – especially at other colleges and universities.

This week we will launch a dashboard that summarizes information about the impact of COVID-19 on campus operations, and includes information on surveillance testing, quarantine and isolation capacity, COVID Pass app usage, and mask wearing. Many thanks to Nate Baldwin, Brad Weaver, and David Dalenberg for their work on this project.

Surveillance Positivity	Montgomery County Score	COVID Pass App Use Rate	Correct Mask Wearing	Current Campus Status
0.0%	1.5 (Yellow)	90.5%	89.7%	Yellow

This is what the move from Orange to Yellow status means: this weekend, we will have our first guests in housing units and more fans will be able to cheer on our athletes at their games and matches. In both cases, pre-registration is required. Students should watch their email for further information on these processes. Full compliance with campus masking, distancing, and hand hygiene is expected from



all guests, and guests should not come to campus if they develop any COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19.

We also have our first Reading Day this Thursday. We encourage you to use this as a day of **REST**: Relax, Exercise, Study, and Take stock. We are about one-fourth of the way through the semester; many courses have had their first exams or major assignments. It's a good time to take stock of what is going well, what you can improve, and whether you need to seek help. Wabash is not easy, but there is [support](#) available: talk to your professors, attend the next Supplemental Instruction session for a challenging course, visit the QSC or Writing Center, or make an appointment with the Office of Student Enrichment to help with time management or study skills.

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

