

Wabash.

March 1, 2021

To: Wabash Community
From: President Scott Feller and Dr. Ann Taylor
Re: Community Update for March 1, 2021

March is a month known for changing weather and hopeful signs of spring. At the beginning of this semester we emphasized the need to be prepared for both progress and problems, represented in our color scheme as blue and red, respectively. Thankfully we are currently on a path of progress that has been hard fought. Some will find our progress to date as motivation to maintain and improve, while others will use fear of regressing back to greater restrictions to help them do the right thing. No matter your motivation, don't grow complacent! To keep this level, we MUST be immaculate with mask wearing, distancing, and hand washing.

Even though we have much to do, it is worthwhile to reflect on our progress. Over the weekend six different athletic teams competed on and off campus. This week the Theater Department presents *Twisted Tales of Poe*, which like our recent athletic competitions and music recital, will allow a limited number of friends and family to attend in person. Planning continues for in-person visits to campus by prospective students over the weekends of March 19 and April 11, and by the families of our 2020 and 2021 graduating classes on May 15. Progress toward all these events depends on you!

We will continue under yellow status after another week of low surveillance test positivity (0.4%). This week we will reach the point of weekly testing for all eligible students. Students have the same testing time every week, so put a reminder on your phone and make this part of your weekly routine. This week over 11% of students missed their surveillance testing time. This is not acceptable! No-shows make our already stretched staff spend valuable time tracking down students. Act responsibly and show up on time. If you have a legitimate reason to reschedule your assigned time slot, please email covid19testing@wabash.edu at least 24 hours in advance. COVID Pass app use also slipped last week to 87.7%. It is critical to raise participation this week. We must be earning a solid A, if not an A+ on these measures to maintain our current yellow level.

As we reflect back on what we have learned in managing COVID this year, the importance of our interdependence is a strong theme. The choices we make individually affect the whole, and reinforce the importance of acting responsibly and living humanely. But behaving with the interests of the whole in mind also benefits the individual; [compassion can help develop resilience](#).

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