

# Wabash.

March 8, 2021

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

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We begin this week with beautiful weather and hopeful signs of spring. Get outside and enjoy it. A walk outdoors with a friend is one of the best ways that we can lift our spirits and generate hope. Reach out to a friend who is feeling a little down or stressed and do it soon, since rain is in the forecast later in the week. We know that winter will likely make one more appearance, and it wouldn't surprise us if COVID does, too.

Campus COVID metrics remain strong this week with a positivity rate of 0.2%. COVID Pass app completion exceeded 90% and 98.8% of students showed up for their tests at their scheduled time. These are best-in-class results. It has taken a lot of hard work to get to this point – now is not the time to become complacent.

These metrics have us ready to move to blue status, but we will remain on yellow this week for two reasons. First, we need another week of testing to determine if the reduced restrictions associated with the move to yellow two weeks ago leads to increased positivity. Second, we are working to address multiple incidents where individuals failed to meet masking and/or distancing expectations. Until expectations are met – for community members and their guests – progress toward blue status will remain paused.

We have entered our second year of COVID-19's impact on our College. It was March 5, 2020 when we had the special Chapel Talk during which Nurse Amidon and Dr. Roberts educated us on the emerging threat, and members of the Global Health Initiative gave us a lesson on hand hygiene. The strong leadership from our medical team and our students that began in the Chapel that day has been a defining element of Wabash's COVID-19 response.

Others might identify March 16 as the beginning of the virus's impact on our campus – the day when we switched to virtual classes – because of the dramatic disruption to our core activity of teaching and learning. As we look back over a year with the virus, the community should take great pride in the resilience, creativity, and commitment to mission that have sustained us.

Whatever date you choose, acknowledge this as a year of loss: loved ones, jobs, financial security, rites of passage, travel opportunities, and family gatherings. Take time to [recognize that loss](#). It also has been a year of re-assessment and growth, revealing our weaknesses and strengths, and giving us time to focus on what we truly value and what we hope for. It isn't always easy to [have hope](#) in hard times, but difficult situations and absence are exactly the times when hope prospers.

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

