



March 22, 2021

To: Wabash Community  
From: President Scott Feller and Dr. Ann Taylor  
Re: Community Update for March 22, 2021

---

We enter the second half of the semester more cognizant than ever of the interconnectedness of our small community. Empathy for our friends and colleagues results in communal sadness and stress when members are hurting. Conversely, support for one another can help us move through difficult times.

Concern for ourselves and others can result in tension that manifests itself in a [reduced capacity for decision making](#). We have seen this in decreased participation in our symptom monitoring app (85%, which is our worst rate this semester) and in less attention to masking and distancing around campus. It is crucial that we make app usage, physical distancing in living units, mask wearing, and hand washing everyday habits, so that they become default behaviors.

Surveillance testing last week was again very favorable with 100% negative results. The campus will remain on blue status this week. To remain in blue, it will be essential to improve the COVID Pass app completion percentage, especially if positivity rates return to more typical values.

We have begun planning for an on campus vaccination event. A survey of students and staff reveals that two-thirds of staff and faculty and a small fraction of students have already been vaccinated or have an appointment to do so. This is not surprising, given the age for eligibility continues to drop rapidly in Indiana. While we do not know when the vaccine will be available to college students or what vaccine may be provided, our talented health care team and other groups on campus are making plans that can be implemented when the opportunity arises.

This week we encourage you to ask someone you don't know well "what's your story?" Not only is this a good way to build your network, you will also better understand other people's experiences.

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

