

# Wabash.

April 5, 2021

To: Wabash Community  
From: President Scott Feller and Dr. Ann Taylor  
Re: Community Update for April 5, 2021

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Welcome back from a three-day weekend! April is often intense, and this week is no different. Thursday brings the excitement of our eighth Day of Giving, Friday is our boldest effort yet to #BashCOVID with our vaccination clinic, and on Saturday the track team will host the first-ever competitive event in the new Little Giant Stadium. Coach Morgan's team has been dominating the competition this spring, so let's lift them up this week as they prepare to make history. And we will welcome prospective students and their families at our second Admitted Student Weekend.

After many weeks of little or no evidence of COVID-19 on campus, surveillance testing identified a cluster of infections. While the surveillance testing positivity rate was 0.5%, several of the quarantined close contacts developed symptoms and tested positive. The good news is that the test/trace/isolate program removed infectious individuals from the community before they were symptomatic. The bad news is that we have documented transmission in living units, something we had avoided for most of this semester. The increased positivity rate and decreased COVID Pass app participation mean that we are moving to Yellow status. It is crucial that we nip this outbreak in the bud so that the next color change is to Blue instead of Orange.

Two worrisome observations from this cluster are a higher-than-typical percentage of close contacts developing disease and a potential case of re-infection. Both raise suspicions about variants known to be circulating in Indiana and Montgomery County. Fortunately, the current COVID-19 vaccines, including the Pfizer vaccine that will be administered at our vaccination clinic on Friday, induce good immunity against these variants. This is another reason that everyone should get vaccinated, even if you previously had the disease.

We are excited for Friday's vaccination clinic and are immensely grateful both for the positive student response and the volunteers who have stepped forward. This is truly an #AllForOneWabash event. Links to sign up for a time slot will be arriving from the Indiana State Department of Health to all unvaccinated students today and to staff who signed up tomorrow. Students will receive the link via text message to the phone number on file with the College and should contact [vaccine@wabash.edu](mailto:vaccine@wabash.edu) with any scheduling questions.

We must remain focused on preventing transmission. We now know that long term effects from COVID-19 can be [life changing for young people](#), even for those whose initial symptoms were mild. A [young athlete in our local community](#) ended up hospitalized and unable to walk after such a case. The best way to combat this is to prevent exposure to the virus: wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance, and avoid crowds, close contact and confined spaces.

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

