

# Wabash.

October 12, 2020

To: Wabash Community  
From: President Scott Feller and Dr. Ann Taylor  
Re: Community Update: Week 10

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The Wabash Board of Trustees met Friday via Zoom for a series of virtual meetings. The Trustees were disappointed they were not able to be on campus to interact with students, staff, and faculty. But it was clear in every committee meeting that Trustees are extremely proud of our campus community, and repeatedly expressed their admiration for the hard work that everyone here is putting in so that we can maintain residential education.

We had another week of 100% negative surveillance test results and no detection of COVID-19 in our wastewater testing sites, though we did have one symptomatic student seen at the Student Health Center whose test came back positive. As we have emphasized repeatedly, this is not unexpected. It reminds us that COVID-19 remains endemic in the College and broader communities. The discovery of a positive case from our COVID Pass app also reminds us that we must continue monitoring our temperature and symptoms **every day**. While surveillance testing is useful for finding asymptomatic cases, only a percentage of students are checked each week. In principle, symptom monitoring should be able to identify every symptomatic case, but only if each of us does our part.

While we are generally pleased with our progress and focus here at Wabash, the news from our surrounding community, other institutions, and the state as a whole is not promising:

- [Franklin College](#) went from one case to 15 and had to transition to virtual classes and activities while officials sorted out the contact tracing. While Franklin is resuming in-person classes this week, athletic activities were halted and the college is now re-setting to stage one of the NCAA resocialization guidelines.
- Indiana had almost 10,000 new cases and over 100 deaths last week.
- After six days of zero cases here in Montgomery County, there have been 19 in the last four days. Neighboring Fountain county is experiencing an even more [dramatic surge](#).

Behind these statistics are individuals and families dealing with tremendous loss. Last week, one of our colleagues at another school lost both her parents to COVID-19. While we have framed our best practices as necessary to live and learn together, we should also remember that they are also the right things to do as responsible citizens.

We have reached point in the semester when we are all tired. [Zoom fatigue](#) is real. The loss of side conversations, opportunities to ask others for clarification, temptation to multitask, and intensity of focus can make virtual meetings and classes draining.

It is especially important to maintain physical health, including eating a variety of fruits and vegetables, getting sufficient sleep, and committing to regular exercise through the midpoint of the semester. These habits have mental health benefits too, and will help us reach the end of the semester on campus.

With gratitude for you and all you bring to our College,

President Scott Feller

Ann Taylor, Special Assistant to the President for COVID Response and Planning

