

# Wabash.

November 9, 2020

To: Wabash Community  
From: President Scott Feller and Dr. Ann Taylor  
Re: Community Update: Week 14

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*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”*  
— Galatians 6:9

Our Enduring Questions course ponders ideas such as, “How shall I live in the world?” and “What does it mean to live in community?” The themes of identity and how we can work together to make the world a better place seem particularly important in the context of a COVID-19, a contested election, and renewed attention to injustice. This semester of learning and living through a pandemic has certainly not been easy, and neither will be the work that lies ahead of us: reaching out, really listening to others, and understanding their perspective. But this work highlights our mission – the very reason we exist: to educate men to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively and live humanely. And as the verse from Galatians reminds us, we can reap a harvest of a successful semester, and a better world, if we do not give up.

As the rates of COVID-19 infection in the county, state, and nation continue to rise, the testing return time has gone up, and it is now taking 72-96 hours instead of 36-48 hours. This week’s random surveillance testing resulted in a 3.3% positivity rate, which is on par with two weeks ago. Two of those students developed symptoms between the time they were tested and we received the results, and we found them to be positive by using antigen tests. We are thankful to have access to these quicker results, though their use is limited to symptomatic cases, and we continue to investigate other PCR-based testing facilities to improve our turnaround time. We also had several symptomatic cases identified by the COVID Pass app in two living units; these students are sheltering in place until their test results are back. We know this is difficult for students, their faculty, coaches, and work supervisors, and the testing team, but this kind of sheltering has been an important mitigation strategy to prevent widespread outbreaks across campus.

This is the final push to the end of the semester and finals, but it is also a critical time for students to prepare to return home safely. Since the virus often takes many days for symptoms to appear, it is crucial that we all continue those things that have gotten us this far: using the COVID Pass app; wearing masks any time we are around others; watching our distance; washing our hands frequently; and avoiding crowds and close contacts. We have prepared [guidance for students to return home safely](#) that is based upon recommendations from the Montgomery County Health Department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Indiana State Health Commissioner Dr. Kristina Box.

Keep up the fight. Finish strong. We know this is hard, but being together is worth it.

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

