July 28, 2020

To the Men of Wabash and Their Parents,

As we prepare to welcome you back to campus in just over a week, I wanted to share a number of updates about how we will return to residential teaching and learning. I know that we are all struggling to imagine how we will do this important work in the challenging conditions we face, but I hope that as we begin to execute the plans we have been making collectively and individually, you will see the responsibility each of us has in order to protect our community.

It all starts with your own health and adhering to a daily habit of monitoring your symptoms using an app I describe below. We are also asking you to think critically and carefully about your activities between now and your return to campus, and to consider the risks associated with them. In short, **you shouldn’t be doing anything that could put our entire Wabash community at risk**. Dr. Roberts laid out the steps you can take in the simplest terms:

**Do These Things:**

* Wear a Mask.
* Watch Your Distance.
* Wash Your Hands.

**Avoid These Things:**

* Confined Spaces.
* Crowded Spaces.
* Close Contact.

This is a generation-defining event in our College’s history and I have great faith in the men of Wabash that collectively you will set high expectations and exercise responsible behavior.

**Complete Your Magnus Health Account:** If you haven’t already done so, it is critical that you update your Magnus Health Account today. Students with incomplete health records, including immunization records, will not be permitted to move to campus or register for classes.

**Pre-Return Testing Through CVS:** We have contracted with CVS for you to obtain a no-cost return-to-campus COVID-19 test. About 97% of all Wabash students live within a 30-minute drive of a CVS Pharmacy that administers COVID-19 tests. **PLEASE WATCH YOUR EMAIL** for a note with details about how to find a location near you and schedule an appointment beginning August 1. The email you receive will include your ID number, zip code, and instructions you will need to make your appointment. Because it will take some time for your results to come back from the lab, it is imperative that you schedule your test appointment immediately after you receive the instructions. Do not delay this process – our time windows are very tight for this important step in our plans. If you do not have access to a CVS Pharmacy, please contact the [Student Health Center](mailto:amidonc@wabash.edu) to explore alternatives for pre-return testing.

**Guidelines and Policies:** Throughout the summer we have referenced the various procedures and guidelines that all of us will need to respect in order to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus on our campus. Please take time to read the rest of this document carefully and refer to our [www.wabash.edu/covid](http://www.wabash.edu/covid) FAQs and guidelines so that you understand what to expect.

**CARE Packages:** All students, faculty, and staff will be given CARE packages, which include a digital thermometer, two WAF facemasks, hand sanitizer, and a refillable water bottle. Students will be able to pick up a CARE package when you arrive on campus.

**Daily Symptom Monitoring Program:** Our IT Services team, working with the Healthy Campus Task Force, has developed a web-based app that must be used by all members of the College community. The web version is available at [www.wabash.edu/covidpass](http://www.wabash.edu/covidpass) (Chrome is recommended) and apps will soon be available for Apple and Android devices. If you are living or attending classes on campus or accessing College facilities at any time, you are required to take your temperature, enter it in the app, and answer a few questions each day before coming to class. If you are symptom free, you will receive a Green pass that allows you to attend class and go about your activities. If you receive a Red symbol, you must stay home and follow instructions that will be provided. To be clear, everyone must adopt this daily habit beginning no later than August 3 if we are to maintain the health of our community and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 disease.

**Mask Requirement:** Masks or suitable face coverings are required when coming to campus and must be worn in all public indoor spaces and outdoors when safe physical distancing cannot be maintained. It is especially important to wear masks in your living units so that you can create and develop relationships with your brothers, but do so safely. Please read the [Mask Policy](https://www.wabash.edu/covid/docs/Mask_and_Face_Covering_Policy.pdf) on the College’s website, which spells out when and where students must be masked.

**Ventilation Systems:** Many of you have asked important questions about our campus ventilation systems. Several teams, including Sodexo Campus Services and Heapy Engineering, have assessed all of our air handling units and have advised us as we developed our plans. We are following that advice, as well as recommendations from the CDC and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). Every HVAC system in our buildings has been studied and a customized operating plan has been developed for each facility. Our approach will be to maximize ventilation and follow CDC recommendations, e.g., by opening windows at the start of each day in some buildings and forcing more outside air through ventilation units. In many buildings during late-summer months, pushing ventilation up will tax cooling systems. We ask for your patience – it is unlikely that our facilities will be as cool (now) or warm (later) as normal.

**Allen Center and Lilly Library:** Please be looking for additional guidance about accessing our large public facilities such as the Allen Center and Lilly Library. At this time, the Allen Center may be used only by current students, faculty, and staff. Athletic Director Matt Tanney will provide information about how to schedule appointments to use the Fitness Center and Weight Room. Jeff Beck will be providing guidance on using the library.

**Events and Guest Guidelines:** As you can imagine, much of our planning has centered on maintaining as much of a “bubble” over Wabash as possible. But we also want it to be an enjoyable and engaging fall semester for all of us. To that end, we have developed some [guidelines related to events and guests](https://www.wabash.edu/covid/docs/Campus_Events_and_Guest_Guidelines.pdf). Please pay particular attention to the section on guests and the role you should play when hosting someone on campus who is not part of our Daily Symptom Monitoring Program.

In closing, I want to extend my appreciation to everyone who has worked so hard to put us in a position to have a successful fall semester at Wabash. Last week we had nearly two dozen volunteers (led by student Alex Rotaru and Dean McDorman) help us set up classrooms, put up signage, and clear out furniture. The Healthy Campus Task Force, which includes students Malcolm Lang and Eric Lakomek, has met three times a week throughout the spring and summer, and working with the COVID Response Team, has led all of our planning efforts. Our campus doctors and nurse have kept us apprised of all medical developments as we’ve created our plans for the fall. ([Dr. John Roberts’ presentation](https://youtu.be/s5qEK-Blc34) on July 23 was outstanding – please take an hour to watch it.)

When we held our Day of Giving back in May, our theme was #WabashTogether. That idea means more now than it did then – when we set fund-raising records. We must continue a mindset that we’re all in this together and we must work together to create a healthy environment.

Thanks for all that you will do to make it a safe and successful semester.

Scott Feller

President