

Wabash.

August 16, 2022

Dear Wabash Students,

With the new semester fast approaching, we want to share with you the latest information related to COVID management. Please review the following details carefully and do your part to protect yourself and others from an illness that could disrupt the ability to succeed in the classroom or in other important campus activities.

- We will continue to follow CDC guidance at the [community level](#), which by current standards means we can begin the semester with masks *optional* in public indoor spaces, including classrooms.
- In the spirit of “acting responsibly,” we ask you to have a supply of high-quality masks (N95, KN95, Kf94) and to wear one if you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive, or if you are feeling sick yourself (with any illness—not just COVID).
- Please respect masking requests from faculty, staff, and fellow students. If you interact with someone who is masked, you should mask up yourself or at least ask about that person’s preference. They may have personal health concerns, or be protecting someone in their household, or perhaps they are protecting you from possible exposure.
- The Student Health Center is available 9:00-10:00 a.m. Monday-Friday for walk-in testing (no appointment). If you need an appointment or want to report that you’ve tested positive, you should send a message via your PyraMED health portal.
- At times when the SHC is closed, your housing leaders will have access to at-home COVID tests as well as guidance on what to do if you test positive.
- Practice good hand hygiene and other commonsense health habits. COVID remains a concern, but other common illnesses are just as disruptive to Wabash students. Missing even a few days of class because of illness can cause grades to suffer, especially if the illness hits around midterms or finals.
- Flu shots are *strongly* recommended! We will hold flu shot clinics soon after start of term.

Our [COVID-19 information page](#) is updated regularly with guidance on what community members should do if they are exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19, are symptomatic, or test positive. If the situation at the campus or community level changes, you may expect updated guidance from campus leaders. For example, we are monitoring developments related to [monkeypox](#) and its possible appearance in the community. Health informational signs regarding monkeypox will soon be placed around campus.

Although the situation can change at any time, we are expecting a normal, activity-filled semester with minimal impact from the lingering pandemic. Let’s have a great year!

Yours in Wabash,

Dean Redding, Dean Welch, Nurse Amidon