



October 26, 2020

Dear Wabash,

In our Monday update, we shared the observation that last week's cases of COVID-19 were housed almost entirely in a single living unit. Other susceptible occupants who were not already in quarantine or isolation had their COVID Pass apps set to "Red" last Friday as part of a shelter-in-place directive. Those students were tested on Monday and their status remained "Red."

Unfortunately, we received a large number of positive test results from this group late last evening. We are now isolating these 15 students and will immediately turn to quarantining their close contacts. Luckily, we expect these contacts are already in quarantine or are in the group that is sheltering in place. Even the students with negative test results will continue with a "Red" status on their app until this is all sorted out.

This is one of the most serious strains on our resources we have faced this semester in terms of both facilities and COVID team personnel, that we have faced this semester. While we are fortunate that a large number of students have completed quarantine over the past few days, we are nonetheless in a precarious position with respect to being able to manage COVID on campus.

Hopefully by tomorrow evening we will have results from a large (100+) random sampling of other housing units that were tested Tuesday. This will help us assess the extent to which we are dealing with any community spread or if transmission is largely limited to the communal living situation.

Typically, we would end this type of message with a request for each of us to redouble efforts along the lines of wearing masks all the time and keeping a safe physical distance. But the challenges we are dealing with are the result of bad decisions made collectively – for the second time in the past few weeks. Today it seems more appropriate to call the community to reflect, individually and together, on how we will hold others responsible for their actions and how we will step in before bad decisions lead to serious consequences. When you see something, say something.

Sincerely,

President Scott Feller

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

