



Dear Campus Community,

1/4/2021

Happy New Year! This communication provides important information and updates for campus community members. Please be sure to review all information contained in this email.

Important Information About the Spring Semester Start!

We can't wait to welcome students back to campus for the spring semester! After much discussion, the College has decided to begin the spring semester with online instruction for undergraduate courses for the first week of the semester (January 11-15). Students are asked to return to campus by January 11 so that they have the full support provided by being on campus. After week one, classes will meet as planned— hybrid, fully in-person, or online. Internships, practica, clinicals, and student teaching will begin as originally scheduled. If you have questions related to internship, practicum, clinical, and student teaching courses, please contact the instructor of record. Graduate students should follow course start information provided by their instructor.

COVID-19 Testing Request and Information

The college is asking all campus community members to be tested prior to returning to campus, especially if they have traveled outside their home region within the last 14 days or have gathered outside their family unit while not wearing masks and following social distancing. Individuals can be tested in the Dubuque community or in their home community. For additional information about test options available in Dubuque, please visit [Free-Local-COVID-19-Testing-Options](#). Those who are ill, exposed and/or have positive test results should contact the Health Center at 563.588.7142 or email Tammy.Marti@loras.edu to discuss steps for starting the spring semester. Student athletes should touch base with their coaches regarding their testing schedule.

Alert Status

We're pleased to report that we had 0 positive cases of COVID-19 on campus in our most recent reporting week, and only 4 students and employees in quarantine status. At a city level, the 14 day positivity rate has fallen from 23.7% in mid-November to 11.4% today. Based on these positive changes, campus is currently at ALERT GREEN (Covid Normal) status.

In **ALERT GREEN** status, the following additional mitigation strategies are in place to help us maintain our Alert Green status:

- On campus, masks continue to be required in all public areas and in areas where 6 feet social distance is not possible. Governor Kim Reynolds has also issued a proclamation indicating that those 2 years of age and older must wear masks when inside areas open to the public where 6 feet social distance cannot be maintained.
- Additionally, Governor Reynold's proclamation sets limits at dining services options of groups of no more than 8 per table area. Utilizing available to-go options remains highly encouraged.
- Groups planning programming should consider using virtual or small group programming when possible. When programming, offer a Zoom or Teams option when possible for those who may not be able to attend programming due to quarantine or isolation protocols or risk status. Masks are required for all programs unless participants are eating or drinking.

- Common area rec rooms will continue to operate at 50% capacity at Beckman, Binz, and Rohlman Halls to help reduce the number of large group gathering areas and reduce contact with common surfaces. No in-hall solicitation will be permitted at this time. Additional use and cleaning expectations have been posted for hall kitchens and laundry rooms. Non-Loras guests are not permitted in college housing at this time.
- Campus community members should continue to avoid social gatherings, including social gatherings with those you do not live with as well as gatherings at house parties and bars. If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, are waiting for COVID-19 test results, or may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not attend class, work, or any social gatherings. **The Director of the CDC has noted that even small group gatherings are resulting in community spread of COVID-19 at this time.**

As previously recommended, prioritize outdoor over indoor activities, stay within the local area when possible, practice 6 feet social distancing, wear a mask, wash hands after touching common and frequently used surfaces, and use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Students who host and/or attend unsafe gatherings, socials, or parties (on or off campus), as well as students who attend bars, risk contracting and/or spreading the virus to other community members. **As a result, please know that students who are found attending hosting unsafe gatherings, socials, or parties (on or off campus), or attending bars may be sent away from campus to continue their learning remotely and may not be permitted on campus for the duration of term/academic year.**

- When necessary, designated athletic teams will cease operations (no practices, facility use, or locker room use) for a period of time to help reduce contact and slow virus activity. Coaches will be in contact with teams impacted by this mitigation strategy. Teams that have not been instructed to cease operations are permitted to maintain practices, squad scrimmages, and locker room use provided they are following Athletics COVID-19 plan, completing the daily screening processes required by the athletic training staff team, and testing as directed.
- Those who are at high risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 should follow recommendations from their health care provider, and should discuss any accommodations requests with their instructor or supervisor. For more information about groups who are at high-risk for severe illness, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

May the New Year bless you with health and happiness! We look forward to seeing you soon!

#Loras Together

Molly

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