



Dear Campus Community,

3/5/2021

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

Alert Green Status!

Keep masking up, social distancing, and washing those hands! We had only two new cases of COVID-19 on campus this week, and at this time have a very low number of students/employees in quarantine or isolation status. We will operate at **ALERT GREEN** status this week. Please review the ALERT GREEN guidelines attached to this email, and keep making good decisions to keep our community at ALERT GREEN level moving forward.

Vaccine Update from Dubuque County Public Health Incident Management Team

Last night, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced that effective March 8, Iowa vaccine providers can officially begin vaccinating additional priority populations. Individuals 64 years of age and younger with medical conditions that are or may be an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are now eligible. The Dubuque County Public Health Incident Management Team is working with local healthcare providers today to review this change.

While this is great news for Iowans with medical conditions that put them at increased risk from COVID-19, it is important to remember that vaccine production has not yet met the demand for the vaccine. This decision was made to accommodate some Iowa counties that have been able to move through priority groupings more quickly due to smaller populations. Some counties and vaccine providers will remain focused on previous priority populations until they are closer to completion. In Dubuque County, public health and local healthcare providers will continue to:

- focus on vaccinating residents age 65 and over,
- are beginning to vaccinate Phase 1B Tier 2 populations (designated frontline essential workers and individuals with disabilities living in home settings and their direct care staff), and
- will begin to vaccinate residents age 16-64 with medical conditions that are or may be an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Depending upon vaccine allocations, some but not all providers will begin vaccinating the 16-64 year old population with medical conditions next week. Residents eligible in this group will need to self-schedule appointments through vaccine provider websites. Please do not call provider offices to request an appointment. Eligible residents who do not have a healthcare provider can call the Dubuque County "Sleeves Up!" phone number, 563.587.4950, for additional assistance on how to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 Variants

You may be seeing information in the news about COVID-19 variants in the United States. The CDC tells us that viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur

over time. This has happened with COVID-19. Public health agencies are closely monitoring these variant strains of COVID-19, and states are testing a sample of positive COVID-19 tests to determine whether or not the variant strains are present in the state. At this time, the CDC website reports 14 cases of variant strains of COVID-19 have been found in Iowa (none are noted in our county). For more information on variant strains in Iowa or other states, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>

Upcoming Testing Opportunities

As you make plans for the Easter break, please know that free COVID-19 testing will be available on campus on Wednesday, March 31, and Wednesday, April 7, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the AWC. Information will be shared next week about how to schedule an appointment to test at these free testing clinics.

Congratulations to Jack Enright and Nathalia Bernal - this week's COVID safe prize winners! We're halfway through the semester – keep up the great work! #LorasTogether

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BE MORE. BE LORAS.