



Dear Campus Community,

12/11/2020

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

## Congratulations Duhawks – We did it!

Congratulations on finishing an outstanding fall semester, Duhawks! Thank you for making the safety of our campus community a priority for the past several months – your commitment, resilience, and Duhawk spirit is appreciated. Please keep that Duhawk spirit with you as you wear that mask, socially distance, and practice good hygiene this holiday season because we can't wait to welcome you back to campus in January!

## COVID-19 Testing Options

We will not be able to offer COVID-19 testing on campus prior to January 2021; however, there are many options for COVID-19 testing in Dubuque at this time. If you are in need of COVID testing, please consider one of the free options available at <https://www.dubuqucountyiowa.gov/565/Free-Local-COVID-19-Testing-Options>. Many of these options are near campus. Questions? Please contact the Health Center at 563.588.7142.

## Planning Ahead: Getting Tested for COVID-19 Prior to the Beginning of the Spring Semester

The college is asking all campus community members to plan to be tested for COVID-19 prior to the start of the spring semester. Individuals are welcome to be tested in their home community or in the Dubuque community. Updated information will be sent at a later time. If you have questions about testing or need assistance finding testing in your home community, please reply to this email or contact the Health Center at 563.588.7142.

## Alert Status

While on campus our virus activity levels are very low, there is still community spread occurring in our area. The County Board of Health tells us that there was a 40% reduction in COVID-19 testing last week, which is leading to a lower number of positive cases. It is anticipated that positive cases will increase as testing resumes. The most recent White House Task Force report indicates both the city of Dubuque and Dubuque County remain in the “red zone”. For this reason, our campus community will continue to operate at ALERT YELLOW status at this time.

In **ALERT YELLOW** status, the following additional mitigation strategies are in place based on where virus activity is present at this time:

- 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, per Governor Reynold's recent proclamation, which extends through December 16, 2020, those dining at dining services options will be limited to groups of 8 per table area. Utilizing available to-go options is 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. Per Governor Reynold's most recent proclamation, indoor gatherings are capped at 15 participants, and outdoor events at 30 participants through December 16, 2020.

- Common area rec rooms will continue to operate at 50% capacity (capped at a maximum of 15 persons) at Beckman, Binz, and Rohlman Halls to help reduce the number of large group gathering areas and reduce contact with common surfaces. Virtual and outdoor programming will be emphasized, and 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 recently 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>

Congratulations on the strong finish, Duhawks! Remember that we are #LorasTogether even when we're apart, and do your part to help keep your family, friends, and community safe when celebrating. We wish you peace and joy this holiday season!

Molly

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BE MORE. BE LORAS.