Dear UWRF Employees,

As we prepare to begin spring semester next week, please read carefully the following information about our latest COVID-19 policy and guidance. Our complete Interim COVID-19 Related Health & Safety Rules Policy has been revised and the full policy is available here: AP-01-128.

A similar message is going out to students as well. That message can be read here.

Here are the most important things for you to know:

Testing
Based on consultation with Pierce County Public Health, our testing protocols are being updated for the start of spring semester as follows:

- All unvaccinated students and employees will have one required testing obligation the week of January 24-28. You will receive your testing obligation via email at your uwrf.edu address. Exemptions are explained in the policy.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms or with a known exposure to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, is expected to test immediately.
- The testing center in Hagestad Hall will be open for appointments Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Schedule an appointment using this link.
- See the policy for guidance regarding the use of at-home/over-the-counter tests.

Quarantine and Isolation Guidance
We will be following the new CDC quarantine and isolation guidance. Please note that to end isolation after five days, a negative test is not needed if you are fever-free and symptoms have improved.

Classes
- Remember to be accommodating to students who may miss class due to COVID-19 isolation or quarantine.
- If you decide to temporarily (up to two weeks maximum) deliver your in-person classes in alternative/online formats, be sure you notify your students immediately of any changes.

Face Coverings
- Face coverings are required in all indoor public spaces on campus property when others are present, regardless of vaccination status and regardless of the ability to physically distance.
- Experts have also recommended upgrading to higher quality N95, KN95 or KF94 masks. You should be able to request a free N95 mask at a federally approved pharmacy or health center starting next week. We have a small supply of N95 and KN95 masks available and are trying to procure more. If you would like to receive one, please email covid-19@uwrf.edu.

Vaccines and Boosters
We continue to strongly encourage all students and employees to be fully vaccinated and have their booster prior to the start of classes. In addition to reducing the risk of serious illness or hospitalization, the vaccine and booster can limit your need to quarantine if you are identified as a close contact.
- If you have not been vaccinated or received your booster dose, please consider doing so. Visit this website to find a vaccine opportunity near you.
• UWRF will continue to offer vaccine and booster clinics when possible. Clinics are planned for next week, Thursday, Jan. 27. Schedule an appointment on Falcons Forward.
• If you are boosted, please let us know. UWRF has enabled the ability for booster dose information to be added to records in the COVID-19 portal. Information entered in the portal is confidential and only used in aggregate for data reporting without identifying information.

Thank you for all of the incredible commitment you continue to show, enabling us to provide a safe and healthy environment for quality teaching and learning. These continue to be trying times and I want you to know how much I appreciate all of the extra effort and thought that goes into making a truly meaningful UWRF education possible.

If you have questions about policies or guidance for spring semester, please call 715-425-4000 or email COVID-19@uwrf.edu.

Go Falcons!

Thank you,
Maria

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