Dear UWRF Students,

Today we released a joint statement with UW-Stout and UW-Eau Claire to end required masking at the end of day on Friday, March 11.

UW System President Tommy G. Thompson has asked System universities to begin the transition from pandemic to endemic operations. To read the UW System news release, go here.

Our current COVID-19 operations policy AP-01-128, which was set to expire on Sunday, Feb. 20, will be extended through March 11 to provide consistency until spring break. Effective at the end of day March 11, masks will no longer be required in indoor settings.

In his statement, Pres. Thompson noted coronavirus rates are declining in Wisconsin. With increased vaccinations and infection-induced immunity, it is expected that immunity levels will increase, and the risk of severe disease will decrease.

Research indicates that keeping current with vaccinations, including a booster, and wearing a well-fitting high-quality mask such as a KN95 or N95 provides the best protection against COVID-19. We encourage those who want to continue to wear masks to do so and we will continue to make high-quality masks available as supplies last. Please respect everyone’s individual choices about masking.

We are hosting free walk-in COVID-19 vaccine clinics in conjunction with AMI Expeditionary Healthcare on the following days:

**Today**, until 4 p.m., Falcon’s Nest, University Center
**Wednesday, Feb. 23**, noon-4 p.m., 232 University Center
**Wednesday, March 2**, noon-4 p.m., 232 University Center

I encourage all members of the Falcon family to continue to monitor for symptoms daily. If you develop symptoms, get tested, and follow appropriate isolation and quarantine guidelines. The COVID response team will continue to monitor the situation and we will respond appropriately to keep the campus safe.

Testing will continue for students, employees and the community at Hagestad Hall until Friday, April 1. Appointments can be scheduled here.

Email COVID-19@UWRF.EDU or call 715-425-4000 if you have questions.

Thank you for everything you all have done and continue to do to help Protect the Nest.

With appreciation,

Maria

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“Talent is equally distributed, opportunity is not.” – Leila Janah