Dear UW-River Falls Campus Community,

We are nearing the end of the two-week shelter-in-place and temporary transition to all online learning announced on Sept. 18. These efforts have allowed us to slow the spread of COVID-19 and our indicators are showing positivity rates at a much more manageable level. I and others in UWRF leadership, thanks to the great support we are receiving from our Emergency Operations Center, have also used this time to further refine our already robust plans for mitigating risks associated with the pandemic. We are now taking additional steps to better ensure the health and safety of our community. There are a few important things for you to know:

- As of Monday, Oct. 5, building hours will return to what they were before shelter-in-place.
- Faculty and instructors wishing to continue all remote delivery are allowed to do so but must inform their students of any changes to the original course schedule. Please see the Sept. 28 email from Provost Travis for more information.
- Employees who are able to telecommute may continue to do so with the approval of their supervisor as long as all student services offered on campus are able to be maintained with staffing during normal office hours.
- Employees who have symptoms of COVID-19 and/or who are awaiting test results should not report to work on campus. For more guidance on what to do, please see the Faculty and Staff section of https://www.uwrf.edu/Falcons-Forward/.
- As indicated in Falcon Daily, we continue to look for additional “reassigned” staff to add more capacity to our emergency operations functions. Please talk to your supervisor if you think you might be able to help out; supervisors please consider reprioritizing workloads as appropriate.

Following is a summary of some additional information being shared with students about the end of our shelter-in-place period (read today’s email to students here). Student compliance with our existing and new guidance is critical to our success. Your efforts to reinforce these messages are of great value.

**Mandatory testing for residence hall students**
- We have published a new administrative policy, AP 01-128, to outline our new testing protocol. All students currently living on campus will be required to be tested before they can continue living in their residence hall, and any students who chose to shelter in place somewhere other than in their on-campus room will need to be tested, or submit evidence of an approved test, as a condition of their return to campus.
- Subsequent to this effort, all students living on campus will then begin a mandatory test protocol every two weeks.

**Testing continues to be available for all students**
- Testing of students who do not live on campus will not be required before they resume face-to-face activity; however, students living off campus are strongly encouraged to be tested as well. Students will continue to receive daily health check texts – please encourage them to respond and not “opt out” of those messages. Any student experiencing symptoms still needs to make an appointment and must get tested as soon as possible.

**Improved quarantine and isolation process**
We have more than doubled our capacity to handle cases of students who test positive, including adding new disease investigation and contact tracing staff trained by and working under the supervision of Pierce County Public Health.

We are expanding and refining our inventory of available quarantine and isolation spaces for students, including preparation of more convenient dedicated isolation spaces on campus.

**Limiting community spread**

- As a precaution against the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and until further notice, students living in on-campus residence halls or using other on-campus facilities are prohibited from hosting or attending gatherings on or off campus that may spread the virus. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, attendance at indoor gatherings of 10 or more people, or outdoor gatherings of 25 or more. (This obviously does not apply to instructional or classroom settings, which must continue to follow UWRF-specific guidance on capacity limits, physical distancing, etc.)
- Students living off campus should not host gatherings that will be or could be attended by students who live or are regularly in close contact with others on campus.

**Student conduct and discipline**

- A student who violates our health and safety directives may be subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including expulsion, pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code Chapter UWS 17 provisions.

**Recommendations and common sense**

- We recommend that students limit their movements and travel to the extent possible, including to their home communities.
- Students who may be employed in settings where they are working with vulnerable populations are asked to discuss their potential risk with their supervisors. Similarly, students who work in environments where face coverings are not required for everyone entering the facility and physical distancing cannot be maintained are asked to thoughtfully consider these risks and discuss any available options with their supervisors.

As always, thank you for your patience and support of our efforts. Please email covid19@uwrf.edu if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Connie

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