January 20, 2022

Dear UWRF Students,

We look forward to welcoming you back to campus for the start of 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.

These 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 my.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
The CDC recently announced new quarantine and isolation guidance.

- Students who are in quarantine or isolation prior to the start of the semester should not come to campus until the conclusion of their isolation or quarantine periods.
- Students experiencing symptoms should not return to campus unless they have tested negative for COVID-19.

Classes

- You should communicate directly with your instructors if you need to miss class, especially on the first day. Instructors are expected to work with you to accommodate COVID-19 related absences.
- Instructors may decide to temporarily (up to two weeks maximum) deliver their in-person classes in alternative/online formats, if deemed necessary considering a variety of factors including personal or family health concerns, suspected exposure, etc. Instructors will notify you of any changes to delivery format.

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.
- It should go without saying, but a face mask is only effective if it is worn correctly over your nose and mouth.
- See the policy for more information about appropriate face coverings and exceptions.
Vaccines and Boosters
We continue to strongly encourage all students, faculty and staff 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.

Finally, I want to reiterate how important it is for all of us to remain cognizant of the current situation as it pertains to the pandemic and our commitment to in-person instruction in spring semester. We have the resources and I know we have the mutual desire to remain in-person. Together, we can provide a safe and healthy environment for quality teaching and learning!

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

Go Falcons!

Thank you,
Maria

**Maria Gallo, Ph.D.**
Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-River Falls