Dear Campus Community,

I am writing with a few important updates regarding our health and safety practices. As you may have noticed, case numbers in Pierce and St. Croix County and in Minnesota have been rising dramatically over the past several days. Given this fact, and that we are returning to mostly indoor activity with the colder weather, and the upcoming travel of many for the Thanksgiving holiday, we have decided to extend our COVID-19 policy.

This extension includes two important updates:
1. Face coverings will remain required indoors when 6-foot distancing is not possible through January 21, 2022.
2. Testing of unvaccinated members of our campus community who come to campus remains required through December 13. In addition, those unvaccinated individuals who were previously required to test biweekly (off-campus students and employees) will now need to test weekly along with the unvaccinated on-campus students. This change will be effective starting the week after Thanksgiving. Every unvaccinated person will need one COVID-19 test the week of November 29 and another one the week of December 6. We thank you in advance for your compliance with this effort to keep our campus safe, especially as we look forward to celebrating a fully in-person commencement on December 18.

Please remember that anyone who is symptomatic, regardless of vaccination status, is strongly encouraged to get a COVID-19 test. The testing center in Hagestad Hall will remain open through December 22.

If you are eligible for a COVID-19 booster shot, or if you want to begin or complete your vaccination series, please note we will be holding two more on-campus vaccination clinics. Appointments are encouraged at the links below. To receive the booster, it must be six months since completing your initial series of Moderna and Pfizer, or two months since receiving your first dose of J&J. Booster doses do not have to match your primary series vaccine, as you may mix and match vaccines. Please bring your vaccine record card with you if getting your second or third dose.
   - Pfizer: Wednesday, Dec. 1, noon-3 p.m., Riverside Ballroom, UC. Sign up at https://freemandrug.as.me/uwrf
   - Moderna and J&J: Thursday, Dec. 2, 1-4 p.m., Riverside Ballroom, UC. Sign up at https://piercecountycovid19vaccine.as.me/UWRF

Finally, while we are all looking forward to some rest and relaxation over the upcoming Thanksgiving break, please remember to consider how important it remains to plan travel and gatherings in ways that are safe and protect the most vulnerable, including your own loved ones. Review the latest CDC guidance on safer holiday celebrations here.

If you have any questions about our COVID-19 policy, health and safety practices or vaccinations, please email covid19@uwrf.edu.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for your help in keeping UW-River Falls a safe place to live, learn and work amidst the enduring challenges of the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Maria