September 17, 2021

Happy Weekend, Falcons!

I hope your week of classes went well and everyone is taking precautions to stay safe!

I’m writing with a follow-up to Chancellor Gallo’s email sent earlier this week on UWRF’s COVID-19 updated protocols, specifically pertaining to new protocols instructors will follow if someone in your face-to-face classes tests positive for COVID-19.

Before I get there though, I want to squash a rumor spreading across campus … There has been no discussion of shutting the campus down and moving everything to remote learning/work. None.

If you want to know the actual data, we are now posting our actual vaccination rate, testing and case data on our Falcons Forward website.

Getting back to the face-to-face classes, the new protocol for instructors if a student does test positive for COVID-19 is that their instructors will be automatically informed. The instructors will then inform the class of the following:

1. An anonymous positive test occurred in the class.

2. Depending on class layout and distancing, students will be recommended or required to get a COVID-19 tested (particularly important for unvaccinated students as they are most at risk).

3. How the class will be handled for the following week – whether maintained in person, or shifted temporarily to hybrid or online. Students unable to attend class in person need to let their instructors know and they will be accommodated.

One confusing thing that might come from this is that each class responds differently, and that is expected. Some classes need to stay in-person for labs or field study, some classes are easier to transition to virtual for a short-time. Depending on the subject and how classes are taught could mean you have three classes moved online temporarily and two remain in-person.

Remember to never go to class if you are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19. While our surveillance testing protocols are focused on our most vulnerable population – those who are unvaccinated – our testing center in Hagestad Hall is open to everyone regardless of vaccination status. Getting vaccinated is still considered the best way to keep our campus community safe. If you haven’t already, please upload your vaccination card. This will also make you eligible for some great incentive prizes when our campus reaches 70%!

**VaxUp Falcons | Vaccination Clinic**

Good news!! There will be another pop-up walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinic in the Falcon’s Nest in the UC on Sept. 23 and Sept. 27 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This clinic will offer both Pfizer and the “one and done” Johnson & Johnson vaccines. If you are not yet vaccinated and have questions or concerns about vaccine safety please reach out to [Student Health Services](mailto:). We are here to support you.
Finally, if anyone on campus, including your instructors, are not following COVID-19 protocols, please report them on the Report It! website under the COVID-19 Concerns – Reporting Form.

We are one Falcon family. Students. Instructors. Staff. Community Members. We are all in this together. Let’s make UWRF the safest campus in Wisconsin!

Take care of yourselves and your fellow Falcons. Thank you for helping to Protect the Nest!

JZ

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