September 24, 2021

Dear UWRF Employees,

There are a few changes with our COVID-19 testing protocol. I want to first point out how well we’ve been doing: our campus positivity rate is 2.89%, compared to 7.95% in Pierce County and 7.7% statewide. Our vaccination rates are impressive and continue to grow: employees have reached 81.9% and students are at 61% - not far from the goal of 70%. Thank you for all your hard work.

Even with this good news, given that COVID-19 is still prevalent in our community and as we move to more indoor activity with colder weather, we are going to increase our required testing protocols as follows:

**Expanded Testing Requirement**

Effective Monday, Sept. 27, all unvaccinated employees and students who work or learn onsite (i.e., not 100% online) will be required to undergo testing as follows:

- Unvaccinated employees who come to campus and unvaccinated students living off campus but coming to campus for class or activities will be tested every two weeks.
- Unvaccinated students living on campus will be tested on a weekly basis.

Note we plan to increase testing of all unvaccinated individuals from biweekly to weekly as soon as feasible. More information to follow.

While we are not requiring vaccinated individuals to get tested at this time, we encourage everyone to continue monitoring for symptoms and to get tested as soon as possible if symptomatic, regardless of vaccination status.

We expect this protocol to remain in effect through November 26, to monitor and promote low disease prevalence before the individuals travel to other communities for the Thanksgiving holiday.

We thank you in advance for your participation in our expanded testing. Please note, there are some conditions in which you can be exempted from this testing requirement. For this to happen you need to log into the COVID-19 Portal if you meet these criteria:

- Are 100% remote.
- Have received a negative test result off campus. Exemption good for one testing period.
- Have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days. (This only applies if you tested positive off campus. If you tested on campus, the exemption has been applied for you. Proof of test result may be requested.)
- Have an approved exemption. To receive an exemption, employees should contact hr@uwrf.edu and students should contact ability.services@uwrf.edu (medical exemption) or student.success@uwrf.edu (non-medical exemption).

Refer to our Administrative Policy for more details: Interim COVID related health and safety rules AP-01-128.

**New Testing Provider**

Effective Monday, Sept. 27, there will be a different clinical services provider at the testing center in Hagestad Hall, Weber Health Logistics (WHL). This is the same testing provider that we had on campus last year. You will notice the change in provider in two ways:
1. You will now need to use a new link to make your testing appointment. The link is forthcoming and will be available on the Falcon’s Forward website. Those who made appointments on the eTrueNorth website (doineedacovid19test.com) September 27-30 will automatically have their appointment rescheduled in the WHL system. Follow the instructions in the confirmation email when you receive it.

2. Test administration will no longer be self-swab. WHL nurses will now be doing the nasal sample collection. They are still the short (mid-nasal) swabs.

Thank you again for your commitment to keeping our campus safe and for your cooperation and patience as our policies and protocols evolve.

Sincerely,

Maria

Maria Gallo, Ph.D.
Chancellor