September 24, 2021

Dear UWRF Students,

You've been doing a good job helping to keep UW-River Falls safe. Our campus positivity rate is lower than our county's and state's and vaccination rates continue to grow: students are at 61% - not far from the goal of 70%! Thank you for all your hard work.

COVID-19 is still prevalent in our community, however, so as we move to more indoor activity with colder weather, we need to do more testing to protect the most vulnerable. Here’s what will change starting Monday, Sept. 27:

- If you are unvaccinated and live on campus, you will need to get tested on a weekly basis.
- If you are unvaccinated but come to campus (i.e., not 100% online), you will need to get tested every two weeks.

If you are vaccinated or unvaccinated and have any symptoms, you need to get tested as soon as possible. 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.

You can be exempted from testing for the following reasons and if you register the exemption in the COVID-19 Portal:

- You are 100% online.
- You received a negative test result off-campus. Exemption good for one testing period.
- You 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.)
- You have an approved exemption. To receive an exemption, students should email ability.services@uwrf.edu (medical exemption) or student.success@uwrf.edu (non-medical exemption).

Starting Monday, Sept. 27, there will be a new testing service 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. The test will no longer be self-swab; WHL nurses will now be doing the nasal sample collection. They still use the short (mid-nasal) swabs.

Refer to our Administrative Policy for more details: Interim COVID related health and safety rules AP-01-128. Thank you again for your commitment to keeping our campus safe and for your cooperation and patience as our policies and protocols evolve. Reminder that we will be hosting another vaccination clinic on Monday, Sept. 27, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the UC. Walk-ins are welcome or appointments may be made here.

Sincerely,

Maria

Maria Gallo, Ph.D.
Chancellor