



The Return of the Flock

EMAIL TO THE WASHINGTON COLLEGE COMMUNITY – 1/28/22

To the Washington College Community,

Happy Friday! We hope you had a great first week of classes. With some snow on the horizon later today and into tomorrow, we encourage you to pay attention to the weather and use caution if traveling later this afternoon or into the evening.

Just a couple of updates for today.

Surveillance Testing – Surveillance testing will begin next week for those with approved vaccine exemptions, and Health Services will also be contacting any student who is 6 months past their original vaccination date and does not yet have an updated card that documents the booster shot. They will reach out to get you set up for the weekly testing appointments. If you have received your booster but have not yet uploaded your documentation to the [Student Health Portal](#), please do so ASAP.

Scheduling COVID Tests via the Student Health Portal is Now Live! COVID tests can now be scheduled online through the Student Health Portal at washcoll.studenthealthportal.com. When you log in, use the **Appt. Scheduling** option in the top menu, and then select **Schedule Appt.** Select **Health Services** as the location for the test, choose the date you'd like an appointment, and click on Rapid Antigen COVID-19 Test as the reason for appointment. Once that is done, click on Search and you will see a list of available appointment times. Click on the COVID Tester link under Providers for the time you want to book, and then confirm the appointment. **Important:** Even though you selected Health Services as the Location in the scheduling system, **ALL COVID TESTS ARE BEING DONE AT THE TEST SITE IN KIRBY STADIUM.** Do not go to Health Services for this appointment.

Frequently Asked Question about Repeat COVID Test – as noted in our [Quarantine & Isolation guidelines](#) for the semester, vaccinated students who test positive for COVID and are experiencing mild (or no) symptoms will isolate for 5 days and then re-test on day 6. We have had a few inquiries about that repeat test, and wanted to clarify the type of test that is used and why a positive result means additional time in isolation.

We are using a rapid antigen test for all testing, and antigen tests look for the presence of proteins on the surface of the virus. So this type of test is specific to when someone is still infectious and will only return a positive result when the person has a high viral load in their nose and throat. PCR tests, on the other hand, will return a positive result for a month or more after someone has had COVID because they detect the presence of any amount of the virus' genetic material. However, we aren't using PCR tests.

Have a great weekend!