



# The Return of the Flock

## EMAIL TO THE WASHINGTON COLLEGE COMMUNITY

### COVID UPDATE – 12/6/21

The purpose of this email is to provide a COVID update. From November 29 to today, we have had three confirmed positive cases among the student population. Two of the students returned home, and one is currently in isolation housing on campus.

The two most recent cases have been confirmed in the last 48 hours with a PCR test (one on 12/5 and one this morning), after the initial positive antigen tests. One of those students has gone home, the other is in isolation. Contact notification for both of these cases has been completed. Rapid testing of close contacts is also complete and while we are awaiting PCR results, none of the antigen tests returned a positive result.

Early last week, we had one student test positive (11/30). That student returned home and all contact notification was completed immediately.

These three cases are not linked and are most likely associated with recent visits home.

We want to clarify that at this time, this is the extent of it, and we do not currently have a COVID outbreak on campus.

We will continue to update the COVID Dashboard with case counts, and will alert the community directly if there is further spread. As a reminder, the charts that provide data on the number of tests administered and the positive case counts **are generally updated on a weekly basis**. The top of the dashboard page indicates the number of positive cases reported from the previous day, from our internal surveillance testing. Any positive test results reported to us from outside sources are reported weekly in a separate chart.

In the meantime, we offer the following reminders:

- **Masks are required in all indoor public spaces.** This is an important safety precaution, so please be diligent about mask-wearing over these next two weeks.
- **If you are feeling at all unwell or have concerns about a recent exposure, please contact Health Services to schedule a COVID test.** This testing option is available for students, staff and faculty. And please keep in mind that COVID symptoms can be very mild and feel very similar to allergies or a cold. If you are experiencing symptoms, presume that you are positive and self-quarantine as needed while you seek a testing appointment.
- **We encourage all community members to consider taking additional safety precautions during this time**, which might include avoiding large gatherings, wearing your mask at all times, following social distancing, or opting for take-out meals instead of sitting down in the dining hall to eat.
- The CDC has noted that everyone over the age of 18 should get a COVID booster. For anyone who received their COVID vaccine during the spring semester, you are now 6 months past your vaccination date and due for a booster. We strongly encourage everyone to get one over the winter break.
- We strongly encourage all members of our community to get a flu shot.



# The Return of the Flock

We appreciate the cooperation of all involved parties throughout the testing and contact notification process.

Stay safe.