

From: [McWilliams, Matthew](#)
To: [All Faculty, Staff & Contract Employees](#)
Subject: Campus update
Date: Friday, January 14, 2022 11:33:41 AM

Faculty and staff,

I'm sharing with you the regular update I just sent to students. There are two additional faculty/staff notes for you:

Covered Covid-19 Tests

Recently the Federal government made an announcement that effective January 15, 2022 insurance companies and group health plans will be required to cover the cost of over-the-counter, at-home COVID-19 tests. The Office of Health Benefits is working with Anthem and Aetna to put this coverage in place for the state's health plans. As soon as we are informed that this coverage is in place, we will let you know.

Public Health Emergency Leave (PHEL)

The Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) revised the guidance on PHEL as it pertains to COVID-19. The available hours were reduced back to 40. Please contact Human Resources if you are out due to COVID-19 and have questions or concerns about accessing these hours.

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Students,

At the end of the first week of classes, I wanted to check in with some updates for you. We continue to navigate the nationwide spread of Covid cases, and watchers of our daily dashboard will note we are seeing increased confirmed positive cases, too. So far the vast majority of these cases are students who contracted the virus while at home and have not yet returned to campus, but naturally we should expect continued prevalence on campus, too.

What we are seeing is in line with our expectations for the beginning of the semester. We are hopeful that the total active cases will decrease in a few weeks, but in the meantime it remains important that we all make sure to wear masks while inside and practice good hygiene like hand-washing.

Here are a few other notes to pass on:

Winter Weather

Forecasts are calling for some wintry weather starting on Sunday. Monday is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which is a holiday and the university is already closed. Enjoy your three-day

weekend, but please be careful if you decide to drive. As with the return from winter break, if you return home for the weekend and develop symptoms or are awaiting test results, please notify the Health Center and remain at home until you have received direction from them.

The University Health Center plans to be open on Monday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., weather permitting. If you feel sick and need an appointment, please call 434-495-2102.

If You Test Positive

A reminder for anyone who gets a Covid-19 test outside the University Health Center that comes back positive: please isolate and call the UHC immediately after you learn your test results. That call kicks off a process where your professors are informed that you are in isolation, and we can help you through the process.

If no one answers the phone, it is likely because they are on the other line. Please leave a message and someone will call you back.

Have a great weekend,

Matthew McWilliams
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