

Longwood community,

An update on a few topics around campus this week:

Covid-19 Cases

Covid transmission continues at very high rates in our region and across the Commonwealth, and we have seen some [increase in positive](#) cases in the Longwood community this week. As has been the experience at a number of other Virginia colleges, we are seeing some positive tests in vaccinated students.

This is to be expected given the prevalence nationally, and it is in fact a sign vaccines are working well: Thankfully all of these breakthrough cases are either experiencing very mild or no symptoms (several are people who are asymptomatic but were tested due to a contact exposure).

This is evidence the vaccine is doing its job to prevent serious illness, but it is a reminder that we all should remain vigilant with health and safety measures, including adherence to our face covering policy in order to limit the spread of the virus.

Right now our resources on campus are not stretched but things can change quickly. We will continue to monitor the situation and make appropriate decisions for our community's health. If additional policy changes or steps are required, including revisiting some of the more restrictive measures that were in place during the spring semester, we will take them.

One piece of good news is that we are still not seeing any evidence of spread in classrooms or other academic settings, and we remain committed to a full slate of in-person classes.

So please do your part for your own health and for the health of the larger community. Wear your face coverings indoors--even at social gatherings. Wash your hands frequently and get lots of rest. The Delta variant is extremely transmissible, so make good choices when attending social gatherings, particularly in indoor settings. Doing so will keep our positive cases down and allow the university to confidently operate with fewer restrictions. As a reminder, testing is available at the University Health Center, and please contact the Health Center if you test positive elsewhere or have questions about testing, vaccinations or other issues.

Employee Testing

Next week, employees who have not shown proof of full vaccination will begin state-mandated weekly testing. Appointment registration began yesterday. If you are not vaccinated and have not signed up for a weekly testing appointment, please do so before the end of the day Friday. If you have questions, please email HRCovid19@longwood.edu.

Rotunda Work

Next Wednesday, facilities crews will be doing some routine maintenance work on the Rotunda dome. There may be some impact to movement around and inside the building, and water being sprayed on the outside. Please avoid maintenance work that day.

Thanks, and stay safe.

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