

Longwood community,

Over the last three weeks or so, we have seen higher prevalence nationally and in Prince Edward County of Covid-19 cases, and over the last week an uptick in case numbers on campus as well. I wanted to update you on our efforts to mitigate spread for the remainder of this semester, and how we continue to support our students who need to isolate and quarantine.

Contact Tracing

Along with individual responsibility, we know from public health experts and our own experience over the first half of the semester how important aggressive contact tracing and quarantines are for mitigating spread. A main focus is making sure we stay on top of that work. Last week, we enlisted three staff members with extensive Student Affairs experience to provide additional support for contact tracing and the quarantine management process. They will also be an important added resource in helping students and families navigate the process until they can return.

Student Support

We continue to work hard to support our students in quarantine or isolation, delivering meals, academic support, daily check-ins, and other needs. We continue to make adjustments to the support system, and the additional staff help for the Quarantine Support Team will help with that as well. While most students who need to quarantine or isolate do so off campus, we want you to know there is a full support structure in place for those in on-campus housing.

Part of that support structure includes two Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) who provide medical checks, monitoring and support to students staying in ARC Hall. Potomac Healthcare, which operates the University Health Center, is bringing on a third CNA to provide additional capacity.

Quarantined Students

The number of students in quarantine and isolation fluctuates. We continue to have sufficient on-campus space for those who need to quarantine or isolate (a reminder: isolation refers to students who have tested positive and are active cases; quarantine for those who have not). In Arc Hall, our count yesterday was 32 students staying in quarantine or isolation. An additional 25 students are in quarantine in their regular Longwood-managed housing. Altogether we had 97 students in quarantine, a majority of whom are off-campus, either in town or, in many cases, at home.

We continue to communicate closely with Hampden-Sydney, which has also seen an uptick in cases, and the Virginia Department of Health, which continues to advise that aggressive quarantine and contact tracing is the best way to “flatten the curve” and slow down spread. We know Covid is present and we will continue to see cases, but will focus on flattening the curve. There is no evidence of spread through in-person classes, dining or use of the Health and Fitness Center – but it’s extremely important that we all keep our guard up with the public health habits. These habits include being personally responsible about wearing face coverings and maintaining social distance,

encouraging your friends to do the same, and washing your hands regularly.

Thank you everyone for your continued hard work and vigilance, and your support for one another as we continue meeting this challenge.

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