

Longwood community,

The end of academic classes is approaching rapidly, and we are on pace to finish the semester strong. A few quick updates:

University Health Center

We continue to encourage students to make use of the health care resources of the University Health Center, for Covid-19 testing/assessment and other health care needs.

You may have seen Gov. Northam's announcement this week that the Commonwealth is working to supply a number of rapid antigen Covid-19 tests to universities. We do not anticipate these will be available to the university community until mid-December, but they will helpfully reinforce our supply heading into next semester. In the meantime, we continue to have the necessary supply to administer tests to the Longwood community based on VDH and CDC guidance.

The Virginia Department of Health also released yesterday [guidance for college students returning home](#) during holidays or extended breaks. This guidance encourages minimizing your interactions as much as possible in the 14 days before departing campus, and taking precautions as you travel. For those worried about potentially returning home and being around family members over the holiday, we have also set aside a number of peace-of-mind PCR tests that UHC can administer. To schedule an appointment at the UHC call 434-395-2102. The UHC can also direct you to other community testing resources if needed.

HVAC

We have had some questions about our HVAC system on campus, and I'd like to share some information with you all regarding the steps we've taken this semester:

- Last summer, HVAC mechanics performed a campus-wide assessment, inspected all units, cleaned coils and fans, and replaced parts. We also worked closely with Commonwealth of Virginia facilities experts who advised Virginia's public colleges and universities on ventilation issues.
- As a result, more than 3,000 HVAC filters at the highest rating available were installed across campus.
- The levels of fresh air intake have been increased campuswide, and incoming air undergoes additional filtration to ensure freshness.
- Our building monitoring system has increased sensitivity to make sure all systems are running correctly.
- We are now running air filtration systems 24 hours a day in academic buildings, not just during working hours, as had previously been standard practice..

End of Semester Schedule

As the end of the semester approaches, a few calendar notes. Students living in on-campus residence halls, Lancer Park, and Longwood Landings will receive information this week from housing about letting us know if they plan to stay over the Thanksgiving holiday and/or be on campus for the exam period. This is so housing and LUPD can have a record of how many students are on campus for safety reasons.

A quick glance at the end of the semester academic calendar:

- **Nov. 24:** Last day of undergraduate classes
- **Nov. 25-29:** Thanksgiving holiday; university closed
- **Nov. 30:** University reopens
- **Dec. 2-11:** Exams
- **Dec. 12:** Last day of graduate classes
- **Dec. 13:** Deadline for students to leave residence halls

Matthew McWilliams
AVP, Communications
Longwood University
434-395-2026 (o)
434-808-2350 (c)