

Spring Semester 2021

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Dear students and colleagues:

I hope you are staying safe and doing well as we begin our Spring Semester 2021. As we all know, this semester we are participating in enhanced COVID-19 testing. All UWL residence hall students are being tested every week; all off-campus students who visit campus at least once a week must be tested every 14 days; and all UWL staff and faculty working on campus are required to be tested every other week.

The campus leadership team and I think that requiring the members of our campus community to be tested regularly is a small price to pay to keep our campus safe from the COVID-19 virus, and I am pleased to say that there have been very few positive test results so far this semester:

<https://www.uwlax.edu/info/covid-19/dashboard/>

These results are a powerful indication that the safety measures we have in place—masking, distancing, hand-washing, prohibiting group gatherings—are working. And we are deeply grateful to all of you for getting tested and staying safe.

As you know, in order to further suppress the spread of the COVID-19 virus we will not be having a spring break this semester. Likewise, we urge you to continue avoiding social gatherings. For example, this Sunday we all should follow Dr. Anthony Fauci's advice and not gather together, as many of us traditionally do, to watch the Super Bowl:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/02/03/963632096/lay-low-and-cool-it-fauci-warns-against-super-bowl-parties-becoming-superspreaders>



'Lay Low And Cool It': Fauci Warns Against Super Bowl Parties Becoming Superspreaders : Coronavirus Updates : NPR

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the president's chief medical adviser and the nation's top infectious disease official, is urging Americans to limit their gatherings to household members on Super Bowl Sunday.

www.npr.org

In addition to increasing COVID-19 testing on our campus this semester, we are collaborating with the La Crosse County Health Department and our outstanding local health care organizations to get vaccines to our campus and community as soon as we can. This is a complex process, but we are optimistic that at some point this semester there will be extensive vaccinating happening here at UWL. As soon as we know details, we'll be sure to share them with everyone.

For now, let's continue to do all we can to prevent the spread of the virus. Please be safe and stay committed. Thank you for doing your part in this unprecedented and historic effort.

Take good care,

Joe

Joe Gow, Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse