

Please Have a Safe UWL Weekend!

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Greetings UWL students and colleagues,

Like many of you, the members of our campus leadership team and I have been reflecting on where we were one year ago, and all the challenges we've faced and overcome in the months since that time.

Similar to March of 2020, it feels like spring has arrived in western Wisconsin. And the desire to be more social and engaged has only intensified with the return of warmer weather and longer days. Though we must continue to respect the dangers of this pandemic, I am certainly thrilled to be using phrases like "the light at the end of the tunnel" in my recent conversations.

As tempting as it is to let down our guard, we are grateful to all of you who are mindful of finding lower-risk ways to reconnect:

- Wearing face coverings – which are required on campus, and always recommended when spending time with people outside of our "household"
- Respecting physical distancing – especially in situations like dining, where face coverings might be temporarily removed
- Taking activities outdoors when possible
- Being cautious about gathering sizes – ideally limiting them to our household members
- Getting tested regularly and self-monitoring for symptoms

The exciting news is that we are watching testing compliance and positivity rates very closely, and our leadership team colleagues and I have begun to discuss how we can safely and incrementally ease some of the restrictions we have grown accustomed to.

Our ability to reintroduce more campus engagement opportunities is dependent on our collective ability to continue the current trend at UWL: keep our testing numbers high and our positivity rates low. The numbers look very promising, but we're not out of this yet.

Be safe and be smart this St. Patrick's Day weekend. Keep getting tested and do what it takes to keep one another healthy. Thank you to each and every one of you for doing your part!

Take good care,

Joe

Joe Gow, Chancellor
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