

Campus update on shelter-in-place

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To: iComm <icomm@uwlax.edu>

Dear colleagues:

We'd like to share an update about our ongoing shelter-in-place order, as well as improvements to a number of programs and services on campus.

First, we're encouraged to hear that the vast majority of our students who have tested positive for COVID-19 are reporting minor symptoms or no symptoms. While this is good news, little is clear about the long-term effects on younger people, but we do understand that this virus can have serious health consequences, especially for older or high-risk individuals. That's why it's critical that we all limit our in-person interactions with others, and that students continue to work with our Student Health Center or other health care providers, even if they feel healthy.

- Enrollment continues to be strong. We are seeing some students cancel their housing contracts, but few are choosing to withdraw from their courses.
- We are continuing to bolster our on-site testing program to increase our daily testing capacity.
- The [COVID dashboard](#) continues to be refined to better communicate our daily test results.
- We have extended the hours of our COVID-19 answer line (608.785.8559) through 8 p.m. during shelter-in-place, and increased staffing on those lines.
- We have been able to staff the Res Hall mail room with employee volunteers as a way to work with students/families who inform us of mail and package needs
- Campus dining hours have been expanded, and additional staff has been added for smoother delivery. We have two food tents where students with a dining plan can receive grab-and-go meals. In addition, we have opened a third location outside of the Student Union, where students can spend their Maroon Dollars or block meals. We are also opening the Badger Street Station in hopes of saving students a trip to the grocery store.

One challenge continues to be contact tracing, and our ability to quickly notify COVID-positive students' close contacts, and the challenge is mirrored at the county level as well.

Another challenge we are working through is the Wi-Fi network. With on-campus students sheltering in their residence halls and completing coursework virtually, we realize the importance of strong, reliable internet connections. We are working to address Wi-Fi issues on campus, and we continue to recommend hard-wired options whenever practical. Residence Life has some ethernet cords available to students while ITS works around the clock with Cisco to troubleshoot the issues.

This will be our reality through Sept. 27, and we realize it is not the way any of us wanted to begin the school year. We will watch our testing results closely and continue our conversations with local health officials and UW System leadership. The goal of the shelter-in-place order has been to benefit the health of not only those on our campus, but those in our broader community. We will continue to monitor closely and develop new strategies to make your college experience as safe and successful as possible.

On behalf of the COVID Response Plan Co-leads,
Dr. Abby Deyo
Chief Allen Hill

Thanks so much,



Maren Walz

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