

Essential "Eagles Return Safely" Plan

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Dear UWL students, faculty and staff,

I'm eager to share with you our "Eagles Return Safely" Plan which was approved by UW System leadership today.

The goal of our COVID-19 Response Planning Team and our Executive Policy Group is to perform data-driven planning and decision-making. To that end, COVID-19 testing will be the most critical component in our transition from "shelter in place" to "Eagles Return Safely."

The UWL Office of Residence Life currently has approximately 1500 residential students sheltering in our residence halls, and approximately 1500 residential students sheltering at off-campus locations such as their permanent residences. And our Student Health Center's testing capacity now stands at 300 tests per day. What follows, then, is our plan to (1) test all of our 1500 students sheltering in their residence hall, (2) test and return to campus the 1500 who currently are sheltering elsewhere, and (3) resume in-person instruction on the UWL campus.

Phase One: Monday, 9/21 through Friday, 9/25

Beginning Monday, 9/21 the 1500 residential students who have chosen to shelter in place away from our campus will be required to wait until their established return date to resume living in their on-campus rooms. These students will be asked to sign up on a "first-come, first-served" basis for return times during the week of Monday, 9/28 through Friday 10/2. Three hundred testing/move-in slots will be available per day.

- All 1500 students who currently are sheltering in UWL residence halls will undergo scheduled testing – approximately 300 per day during the week.
- Students who test negative for COVID-19 or bring documentation of a positive test result from an accredited health care provider or county health department dated within 90 days of the established return date may continue to live in their room.
- Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to move to isolation rooms provided by the university; or they may choose to go home for their isolation period.
- Students who refuse testing will begin the removal process from the halls.
- Additionally, UWL commuter students living in the La Crosse area will be informed of three La Crosse County mass COVID-19 testing events and highly encouraged to participate. The County Health Department has scheduled these events for Thursday, 9/24, and Friday, 9/25 on the UWL campus; as well as Saturday, 9/26 at Logan High School.

Transition: 5 p.m. Sunday, 9/27

We will officially end our "shelter in place" order and transition to an "Eagles Return Safely" model that allows for more movement on campus and triggers the second phase of our return plan for the 1500 students who opted to shelter at locations other than in their on-campus rooms, ultimately enabling the resumption of in-person classes on Monday, October 5th.

- Many campus services will resume activity, continuing with their established health and safety protocols. We will communicate more about this in the coming days.
- Students must return to their rooms **only according to phase two (below), following our established testing and move-in schedule.**
- Face coverings will continue to be required in all public spaces both indoors and outdoors.

Phase Two: Monday, 9/28 through Friday, 10/2 (alternate day Saturday, 10/3)

We begin our orderly return of the 1500 resident students who chose to shelter in place somewhere other than in their on-campus rooms.

- All 1500 returning students must first schedule a visit to the testing center in Cartwright and either:
 - Be tested and receive notification of a negative result.
 - Bring documentation of a negative test result from an accredited health care provider or county health department dated within 48 hours of the established return date.
 - Bring documentation of a positive test result from an accredited health care provider or county health department dated within 90 days of the established return date.
- Students who are "cleared" will be granted permission to return to their campus residences.
- Any COVID positive students or students who refuse to be tested will not be granted permission to return to their rooms.
- If isolation rooms are available COVID positive students may be assigned to them; otherwise they will need to (or may choose to) go home for isolation.

Once the "Eagles Return Safely" process is completed at the end of the day on Friday, 10/2 undergraduate in-person instruction will resume on Monday, 10/5. At this time, all offices and services will resume the in-person operations they had established the first week of classes.

There is no perfect plan for mitigating the issues we face, and every potential solution is bound to uncover new challenges. We are anticipating what we can and will be ready to face what comes our way. The leadership team and I are grateful to every person in the UWL community who has taken this period of shelter in place seriously. Please, whether on campus or in the community, continue to wear a face covering, practice physical distancing and good hygiene, and please, avoid gathering in groups as this appears to be the greatest risk for community spread in our area. We must challenge ourselves and one another to be diligent for the health and safety of our community. As always, thanks for all you're doing to keep UWL moving forward!

Take good care,

Joe

Joe Gow
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