

Essential UWL Thanksgiving Information

Joe Gow <jgow@uwlax.edu>

Fri 11/20/2020 4:36 PM

Dear students and colleagues,

Thanksgiving is less than a week away, and our university leadership team colleagues and I hope everyone is paying attention to the latest warnings from the US Centers for Disease Control and local health officials about travelling and gathering with people outside our immediate households. Although we'd all like to be able to visit this year with family and friends as we normally do to celebrate Thanksgiving, high levels of the COVID-19 virus currently in our community and region make this very dangerous to do. Consequently, it is safest to celebrate where we are right now, and only with those who live in our immediate households. We hope that's what you'll choose to do next Thursday.

If you absolutely must **travel for Thanksgiving** please use this guide to help you protect yourself, your loved ones, and our health care systems. <https://www.uwlax.edu/news/posts/how-to-plan-a-safe-thanksgiving-break/>

Also, if **you choose to travel you must get tested for COVID-19 both before you leave La Crosse and after you return**. While UWL resident (on-campus) students continue to participate in the testing program through our Student Health Center, there are a number of testing options available to off-campus students, faculty and staff:

- Surge testing program at UWL – located in the Cartwright Center 3rd floor. <https://www.uwlax.edu/info/covid-19/testing/>
 - National Guard free community testing sites – <https://lacrossecounty.org/covid19/testing-information>
- In all cases, pre-registration is required. Be prepared for lines to become long. Testing is free and available for ages 5 and up.

And though we will no longer be holding classes in-person **after the Thanksgiving holiday**, many campus services will remain operational. Please refer to the campus services and building hours webpages, as offices and services are updating their status for the holiday weekend and after. <https://www.uwlax.edu/info/covid-19/campus-services/>

We know you have many questions about the weeks ahead, so our COVID-19 Executive Policy Group will be holding an eForum/Webinar as follows:

eForum/Webinar:

Tuesday, Nov. 24, 10 a.m.

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

During the webinar our leadership team will address topics that are on the minds of our campus community. Like our last webinar/eForum, there will be the opportunity for you to email questions to us that we will answer as best we can. And if you'd like to submit questions now please reply to this message with them.

Thanks again for your patience and hard work as we adapt to yet another change in this unusual year together. We look forward to connecting with you at the eForum on Tuesday. Let's be sure to continue doing all we can to keep our campus, community, and region safe for everyone.

Sincerely,

Joe

Joe Gow, Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse