

## COVID response and gratitude

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Greetings UWL students, faculty and staff,

As we conclude our 2021-2022 academic year, the COVID Executive Policy Group and I want to share with you a few important updates and messages of gratitude.

**Testing:** This is the final week of testing on our campus; Wednesday (today) & Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Thousands of tests have been administered since the creation of the center in November 2020. We are thankful for our partnership with Weber Health Logistics for our on-campus testing center. We are also grateful to everyone who took advantage of this service as a way to keep our community healthy. While testing will no longer be available in Cartwright, all of us can continue to use testing through local health providers, companies like Walgreens, and through at-home tests.

**Contact tracing:** Similarly, the critical work of the UWL contact tracing team will be concluding this week and those efforts will be entrusted to our phenomenal county public health professionals. It's difficult to fully express the weight of the work of those involved with contact tracing and managing the COVID hotline phones and emails. It was at times a 24-7 demand that required professional clarity and sincere compassion. Thank you everyone who contributed to this work – starting with our first group of volunteers who staffed our impromptu call center all the way back in March of 2020.

**COVID website and dashboard:** These changes also mean that we will be concluding our management of the COVID dashboard for the summer months, and our UComm team will begin the process of archiving historical COVID information from the website. The executive policy group will continue to monitor case trends in the community and keep our communication channels open with public health. Should the need arise for pandemic response measures, we will act nimbly and communicate openly.

On a personal note, I'd like to express my deep appreciation to the members of our COVID Executive Policy Group for the truly amazing work they've been doing throughout the pandemic. The teamwork our talented group has been engaging in is the essence of administration. And when this pandemic is truly over, I look forward to properly acknowledging each member of our Group's unique contributions to UWL history.

On that note, although the academic year is drawing to a close and some of the elements of our on-campus COVID response will be concluding, we recognize the pandemic continues. We have come a long way in these 2.5 years of navigating a global pandemic together. Thank you for your continued vigilance and for caring for one another. I hope you share my strong pride about being a member of such a remarkable campus community.

Take good care, and thanks so much!

Joe

Joe Gow, Chancellor  
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