



**Thursday, February 25, 2021**

Dear Campus Community,

I am pleased to share that we see a decline in the number of positive COVID cases. Thank you for your commitment to our public health guidelines and continued effort to slow the spread. Our [testing results](#) are posted daily on the website.

With this continued decline in positive cases and the fact that we continue to see no transmission in teaching spaces, we plan on resuming all in-person classes on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. Originally, it had been our hope to resume all in person activities on March 1 if cases declined significantly, but the March 3 date reflects our desire to assure everyone's safety and the advice of outside experts.

Some previously approved experiential classes may continue to meet in person with required PPE and appropriate physical distancing; additional classes may be added by consultation with the provost. Students will hear directly from their instructors if they need to meet in person early next week prior to March 3. Athletics will be handled on a case-by-case basis and students will hear from their coaches. We plan on opening the Child Care Center on Monday, March 1.

Staff who are currently working remotely should plan to return to campus on Wednesday unless previously approved to work remotely this semester.

**Most other restrictions will stay in place until March 5–8.**

Resuming most in-person classes on Wednesday, March 3, provides the extra time needed to ensure testing is completed for those students who have left campus. *Details on plans for returning students to test will be sent to students in a separate e-mail today.*

A Wednesday return to in-person learning will also assure that technology is working and provides flexibility for thoughtful transition to minimize any negative impact on learning. Some classes are easier to transition than others. Instructors, please have patience with students who need to reintegrate into the testing protocols. Students, please have patience as instructors transition from online back to in-person activities.

We continue to closely monitor the data. If these encouraging trends continue, we will further reduce the restrictions and plan to get back to our more normal “COVID Operations” by Monday, March 8. Please continue to stay vigilant and again, thank you for your commitment to the health and safety of our shared community.

Sincerely,

Don

Donald L. Birx  
President