

March 31, 2021

Good afternoon,

It is essential to test twice every week **AND** follow proper health and safety guidance. Last week, we saw an increase in our positive cases (mainly students) — the region, state and nation have seen increases as well. I've also seen some slack in mask wearing on campus.

Remember that COVID is still very contagious, especially new variants of the virus. **THE VIRUS IS IN OUR COMMUNITY.** Abide by our social compact and, again, importantly:

- If you are on campus, test twice a week, every week. (More info at [this link](#).)
- Wear your mask and wear it properly.
- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently.
- **Avoid parties, crowds and any unmasked gatherings with people outside your household.** The increase we've seen on campus has been traced in part to student-to-student interactions not following health guidelines.
- Monitor your symptoms and use the [Check-in Portal](#) daily.

A few reminders for the week:

Vaccinations: The state has moved into Phase 2B, which includes Marylanders age 16 and older with underlying medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19 illness, and Marylanders with disabilities. I encourage you — if you are eligible — to seek a vaccine when possible. Phase 1, 2A, and 2B eligible populations are now able to pre-register online at <http://covidvax.maryland.gov> or by phone through the state's COVID-19 vaccination support center at **1-855-MD-GOVAX** (1-855-634-6829). Also make sure your name is on the Allegany County Health Department/UPMC Western Maryland Vaccine Interest Form at [this link](#). There is still no indication of if we will receive doses of the vaccine to distribute here on campus.

Also, if you have received a COVID-19 vaccination — 1st dose, 2nd dose or single shot — through any provider, please log into [FSU Check-in Portal](#), look for “My Vaccines” in the menu at the top right, and record your information.

Welcome New Leaders: Congratulations to the new SGA President Ariyana Ward and Vice President Ismerai Reyes. I always look forward to working with our elected SGA representatives as they develop their leadership skills, bring student issues forward and provide services for students. I also want to congratulate Dr. John Lombardi, who has been elected to a two-year term as the new Chair of Faculty. I look forward to working with Dr. Lombardi and faculty colleagues.

Also:

- Watch for more details and information about **Grad Walk on May 7** if you are an eligible Spring 2021 graduate.
- Students and employees are part of FSU's **2023 strategic planning efforts**— meetings and presentations are ongoing (check your email for dates, times and additional information).

- After another excellent Virtual Coffee with students earlier this week, I'll have one for employees at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow. Check your email for the link.

Stay safe and be well,

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