

Good afternoon,

Please continue proper health and safety protocols (masking, social distancing and frequent hand washing) as you are more active as the weather warms. Some of the indicators in the state are beginning to show signs of increases in many areas, *including here in the region. COVID is still very contagious, especially new variants of the virus.*

Don't let the virus disrupt your semester. Don't take it for granted that you can interact with mask-less friends and be free of risk! Abide by [our social compact](#).

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.**
- Monitor your symptoms and use the [Check-in Portal](#) daily.

A few reminders for the week:

Vaccinations: 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. This very simple step will help us in evaluating the status of the campus.

I encourage you, if you are eligible, to seek a vaccine when possible and make sure your name is on the Allegany County Health Department/UPMC Western Maryland Vaccine Interest Form at [this link](#). The [state health department website](#) offers information on local vaccination sites. There is still no indication of if we will receive doses of the vaccine to distribute here on campus as the state as moves to Phase 2A and beyond in the coming weeks. [Read more about Maryland's vaccination plan](#).

Campus Climate Survey: The University Council for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (UCDEI) held focus groups this week and are working on sharing the survey and focus group information with the university community this semester. I want to thank all of the students, faculty and staff working on this for their time and dedication in addressing the issues of making sure all voices are heard.

Pandemic Recovery Level: The state has started adjusting some restrictions and revised guidance from the CDC continues. The Reopening and Recovery Committee is considering recommendations for adjusting the Pandemic Recovery Level over the next few weeks. We will, however, approach each decision with an appropriate level of informed caution moving forward. Expect more information in the coming weeks and [find out more about our plans here](#). I am also meeting with SGA leadership later this week to review the May graduate survey results.

Virtual Coffee with the President Events: Watch your FSU email for links to next week's Virtual Coffees. There is one for students on Monday, March 29, at 4 p.m. and one for employees on Thursday, April 1, at 9:30 a.m.

Stay safe and be well,

Ronald Nowaczyk, PhD
President
Frostburg State University
101 Braddock Road
Frostburg, MD 21532-2303
(v) 301.687.4111; (f) 301.687.7070
You may also seek assistance by contacting:
Donnell H. VanSkiver, CAP, MEP, OM
Executive Administrative Assistant
Email: dhvanskiver@frostburg.edu



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