

March 9, 2021

Subj: Spring Update #8

Dear Colleagues:

We hope you are enjoying the unseasonably warm weather this week and taking the opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy the sunshine. At least this week, it really does feel like a spring semester. Here is a brief update.

By the numbers

As mentioned in our last message, we compare the number of positive cases on similar days of the week to get a sense of how our numbers are trending. This week, the number of new cases reported on Monday continued its moderate downward trend from 38 (2/22), to 24 (3/1), to 19 yesterday. We see this as progress, though the number of positive cases continues to be higher than we would like. We will continue working together to further reduce the case counts.

New CDC guidance

You may have read that the CDC has issued new [guidance](#) for what it considers to be allowable activities for those who have been fully vaccinated. While these are generally welcome signs of progress, our University health and safety protocols remain unchanged.

Vaccination update

We continue to encourage everyone who is [eligible](#) to get vaccinated as soon as possible, and the State of Indiana is making good progress in this regard. Last week the state lowered the eligibility age twice, to 55 and again to 50, significantly increasing the number of people eligible. The state will hold two daylong mass vaccination clinics on our campus at the Compton Family Ice Arena, Friday and Saturday, March 26 and 27.

Closing thoughts

During the past 12 months, we have witnessed many noble acts by students, faculty, staff, and other members of the Notre Dame family. Recently, while receiving my (Marie Lynn's) first vaccination shot, I met several Notre Dame community members who have rearranged their work and life schedules to volunteer at the St. Hedwig Memorial Hall vaccination site. Pictured here (left to right) are Vincent Melody ('96), a database administrator at Notre Dame; his wife, Kate ('98), a night shift charge nurse at Memorial Hospital; and Asinamai Ndai, a research assistant in the Keough School of Global Affairs, graduating in May. We are grateful to all of you who continue to go above and beyond in service to Notre Dame and our broader community.



Even as we begin to think about a future beyond the pandemic, please remember:

- Wear your mask
- Practice physical distancing
- Wash your hands frequently
- Complete your daily health check
- Keep your scheduled testing appointments

Yours in Notre Dame,

Marie Lynn Miranda, Provost
Shannon Cullinan, Executive Vice President