



*Update from the Vice Provost for Student Affairs*

# LEADING IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

**February 11, 2021**

Dear Students, Families, and Faculty and Gonzaga Colleagues,

Thanks to everyone for continuing to help us get off to a strong start to the Spring 2021 semester. As COVID-19 continues to challenge us, and with the gray of winter upon us, we need to pay close attention to supporting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of our students and colleagues within the Gonzaga community. Please be attentive to those who may need assistance -- Zags help Zags -- and reach out for support yourself when you need it. There are many great resources for you in the [Wellness Toolbox](#)

When the weather cooperates, make it a point to get outside, explore your natural surroundings in and around Spokane, and maybe take advantage of the programs offered by Gonzaga Outdoors. Let's do our best to stay positive, continue to support each other, and stay the course. In this week's newsletter, I am providing updates on community safety, testing, vaccinations, travel, and quarantine and isolation. ZagOn!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, visit the [ZagOn site](#) or call the COVID-19 Hotline at 509-313-7070.

Zag Up and Zag On,

Dr. Kent Porterfield,  
Vice Provost for Student Affairs



## Shared Responsibility for Community Safety

Members of the Gonzaga community worked hard last fall to keep COVID-19 at bay – and we were largely successful. Now, we are all growing weary of COVID restrictions and missing our typical social environments. The only way that we will maintain as safe a campus environment as possible, however, is to continue to adhere to the guidelines set forth by our state and local health partners. While vaccines hold hope to stem the pandemic, we know it will be some time before everyone on campus is able to be vaccinated.

Dr. Charlita Shelton, Special Assistant to President Thayne McCulloh, offers this quick video [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOTZh7GVeeA&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOTZh7GVeeA&feature=emb_logo) to continue to protect ourselves, our friends, our colleagues, and our neighbors by taking simple, but essential prevention steps, such as the following:

- No parties or gatherings outside of your household
- Wear masks
- Practice physical distancing
- Wash your hands often
- Avoid unnecessary risks, including visits to area destinations with relaxed restrictions
- Use ZagCheck to self-monitor
- Show up when called for surveillance testing to help us identify threats early on campus

Be thoughtful of others. Be kind. Embrace our shared responsibility to look out for each other.

## Vaccinations

The Washington State Department of Health issued this [phased plan/timeline](#) for vaccine distribution. Our state is currently in Phase 1B, Tier 1 of vaccine distribution. In visiting [DOH's web site](#), the Phase Finder can help each of us identify where we fit within the vaccination plan. We encourage everyone to conduct this self-assessment, answer questions honestly, and take advantage of vaccination availability as soon as possible.

The Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) recommends that employees and students who qualify per the phased plan participate in the [Spokane Arena mass vaccination clinic](#). Vaccinations are by appointment and delivered only to those who qualify under the current phase of Washington State's plan.

Gonzaga is working closely with SRHD for the opportunity to extend services for the district's vaccination plans. If our proposal is successful, information will be forthcoming. All vaccinations in Spokane County will be in strict adherence to the State's tiered vaccine distribution.

Several of Gonzaga's front-line employees serving in areas such as Health and Wellness Services, Housing and Residential Life, Campus Security and Public Safety, and Plant Services have received first vaccinations and will receive a second vaccination within the next couple of weeks. Nursing students and faculty who are in clinical settings have received the vaccine, as well.

As new information becomes available, it will be shared on our [ZagOn website](#), in Morning Mail, and through this newsletter.



## COVID-19 Testing & Contact Tracing

Testing details up to February 19 are listed below. No testing is available on Monday, February 15, as it is President's Day, a University holiday. More information about testing after February 19 will be available soon on the ZagOn website, so keep checking!

Surveillance Testing: **Students, it is important that you get tested if you are asked to take part in surveillance strategies. ZAGS HELP ZAGS!** Surveillance testing notifications will be sent per usual through Zagmail accounts and, you will be directed to the location for your test.

- February 15 – President's Day is a University holiday. No testing available.
- February 16, 17, and 18 locations:
  - PCR testing in lower Welch Hall (former Sub Shop)
  - Antigen testing in Tilford 109

Walk-In Testing: There are no walk-in clinics or on-demand testing in place through February 19.

Signs, Symptoms or Exposures Testing: Testing is by appointment only. A testing appointment can be made by calling Health & Counseling Services at 509-313-4052. Report symptoms and exposures to the COVID-19 Hotline at 509-313-7070 and select option 1. Students cannot book appointments through the COVID hotline, only through Health & Counseling Services.

Contact Tracing: Daily symptoms screening is a critical component of contact tracing. Gonzaga has a team of contact tracers in Health & Counseling Services to support students who test positive for the COVID-19 virus, are presenting signs or symptoms, or have been in close contact with another person who has had a laboratory-confirmed positive test. They work in close coordination with SRHD. Call the COVID-19 Hotline at 509-313-7070 and select option 1 if you have any questions.

## Travel Guidance for Gonzaga University Students

The Governor's travel advisory encourages us to avoid non-essential travel at this time to avoid risks of spreading the virus. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends limiting travel at this time. With this caution in mind, we are urging you to minimize travel to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. If you must travel, however, Gonzaga University provides this guidance in accordance with the CDC, state, and regional agencies.



## **Prior to travel**

- If you are traveling and a negative test result is required, i.e., Hawaii, you may request to be tested by contacting Eric Baldwin (baldwine@gonzaga.edu) to arrange an appointment. This does not apply to travel to areas where tests are not required by state or federal agencies.
- We are recommending that you have a COVID-19 test 1-3 days before your trip. Make sure you have the results of a negative test before you travel. Keep a copy of your result with you during travel, as you may be asked for it.
- **DO NOT TRAVEL IF YOU TEST POSITIVE.** Immediately isolate yourself, follow public health recommendations, and call the COVID-19 hotline at (509) 313-7070 and select option 1.

## **After you return from travel**

- You should get tested again 3-5 days after your trip. You may test at Gonzaga University Health and Counseling Services for post-travel purposes, or for signs, symptoms, and exposures to COVID-19. You should also self-quarantine in your residence for a full 7 days after travel, even if your test is negative. If you don't get tested, you should self-quarantine in your residence for 10 days after travel.
- You may have been exposed to COVID-19 on your travels, so take actions to protect others. If there are people in your residence who did not travel with you, wear a mask and ask everyone in the household to wear masks in shared spaces inside your home during your period of self-quarantine.

## **Tips for staying overnight if you must travel**

- Wear masks while in shared spaces indoors. Masks may be removed for eating, drinking, and sleeping, but individuals from different households should stay 6 feet/2 meters (about 2 arms lengths) apart from each other at all times. Avoid singing or shouting while indoors. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially upon arrival. Improve ventilation by opening windows and doors or by placing central air and heating on continuous circulation. Spend time together outdoors for interpersonal interactions if at all possible.
- If you must travel, be prepared. Know what you will do if you, a family member, or friend becomes sick during the visit. Make plans for isolation, medical care, basic care, and quarantining exposed people. For additional travel information, please go to the following sites.
- [WA State Additional Travel Advisory Information](#)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

The information above is adapted from the CDC and the Washington State Coronavirus Response (COVID-19) and has been reviewed by the Spokane Regional Health District.



## **Isolation and Quarantine Numbers - January 25-31 & February 1-5**

### **January 25-31 - On Campus:**

#### **Quarantine**

- Seven (7) students moved to quarantine residences
- Four (4) students directed to quarantine-in-place
- Eight (8) students released from quarantine
- Five (5) students released from quarantine-in-place status

#### **Isolation**

- Four (4) students with positive test results moved to isolation residence
- Six (6) students released after completing full isolation period
- Zero (0) symptomatic students released from isolation (tested negative)

### **January 25-31 - Off-campus:**

#### **Quarantine**

- 19 students

#### **Isolation**

- 7 students with positive test results
- 1 symptomatic student, awaiting test results

### **February 1-7 - On-Campus:**

#### **Quarantine**

- Seven (7) students moved to quarantine residences
- Two (2) students directed to quarantine-in-place
- Six (6) students released from quarantine
- Four (4) students released from quarantine-in-place status

#### **Isolation**

- Two (2) students with positive test results moved to isolation residence
- Four (4) students released after completing full isolation period
- Zero (0) symptomatic students released from isolation (tested negative)



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## **February 1-7 - Off-campus Students:**

### **Quarantine**

- 4 students

### **Isolation**

- 5 students with positive test results
- 1 symptomatic student, awaiting test results

For additional information, including updates on testing and the number of COVID-19 positive cases, visit our website [www.gonzaga.edu/zagon](http://www.gonzaga.edu/zagon). Cumulative and active positive cases are updated at 5pm Monday-Friday on our COVID-19 Dashboard, and testing data is updated on a weekly basis each Monday. If you have questions, please call our COVID-19 hotline at (509) 313-7070.