



*Update from the Vice Provost for Student Affairs*

# LEADING IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

**February 24, 2021**

Dear Students, Families, Faculty and Gonzaga Colleagues,

March is just around the corner, and I want to again thank all of you for keeping each other and our community safe this winter during the ups and downs of this pandemic. It is hard to believe, we have now been dealing with the impacts of COVID-19 for nearly a year.

Though our weather still seems more like winter, I am looking forward to the warmth of spring and having more opportunities to enjoy the beauty of our campus and region.

In this newsletter you'll find:

- guidance for hosting guests on campus
- a link to our COVID-19 dashboard
- contact tracing information
- 2021-2022 Housing Sign Up Process
- COVID-19 Hotline and how it can help
- an update on potential for vaccine administration on campus

Additionally, the 2021-2022 Housing Sign Up Process is underway, and we are reminding students and their families of our residency requirement for on-campus living for first- and second-year students. First-year students will be contacted starting March 1.

Though our news is shorter in this newsletter issue than typical, we want to keep our collaborative dialogue going and welcome your questions or concerns. For the most updated information, you can always visit our [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



## Expectations for Guests and Visitors

As the semester unfolds, you may get requests from people wishing to visit. Please refer to [Guest expectations in University owned, operated, or leased facilities](#) for guests, visitors and students.

## COVID-19 Testing & Contact Tracing

Please visit the ZagOn site (<https://www.gonzaga.edu/zagon/testing>) for the Student Testing Schedule from February 22-March 31, 2021. It also contains information on Sign Symptom Exposure Testing, and Faculty and Staff Testing and Contract Tracing.

## Reminder: Gonzaga University's COVID-19 Dashboard

Gonzaga University's [COVID-19 dashboard](#) provides information on cumulative and positive cases, testing, and isolation, and quarantine capacity. We've recently updated the dashboard to make it easier for you to access the information you need. Help Gonzaga keep the numbers low, do your part: complete your ZagCheck, wear a mask, and, maintain 6' distance.

## 2021-2022 Housing Sign Up Process

The 2021-2022 housing sign-up process has begun. Upper Division students have already applied and begun signing up for on-campus living options. Starting March 1, Housing and Residence Life will be reaching out to current first-year students regarding the application process. As you know, the residency requirement for on-campus living for first- and second-year students was suspended for the 2020-2021 Academic Year. However, the goal of returning to full in-person instruction, housing, and campus activities for Fall 2021 includes a return to enforcing the residency requirement.

Current first-year students will participate in the room selection process, held in late March, to select a room on campus. We believe that living on campus is a foundational part of the Zag experience. The sense of community that emerges with roommates and others on your floor or in your building provides opportunities to be in deeper relationship with peers, engage in conversations that enhance what you are studying in the classroom, and participate fully in our mission to be an "exemplary learning community that educates students for lives of leadership and service for the common good." We are excited to return to a time when that experience can be more fully realized.

If you are currently a first-year student who has not completed the conditions of our residency requirement, please note that any exemption you received this year does not apply for your sophomore year. Do not sign an off-campus lease for the 2021-2022 academic year. You can read more about our residency requirement and approved reasons for exemption from the requirement [here](#). If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Housing Office at [housing@gonzaga.edu](mailto:housing@gonzaga.edu) or 509-313-410



## COVID Hotline - A Resource for the Gonzaga Community

Over 3,000 calls have come into the COVID Hotline since the beginning of Fall semester, about 60 percent of which have been to the contact tracing team in support of student needs. Most of these calls are regarding testing access and locations, or to explore whether a student's COVID-like symptoms are an indicator to get tested. In the work to support students being served by our Quarantine and Isolation program, contact tracers and the housing and residence life staff are initial contacts for addressing needs such as feeling stressed or having forgotten a special item from a student's residence – like slippers, or a phone charger.

Other calls to the COVID Hotline from employees, parents, and community members are primarily answered during weekday business hours by a collection of volunteer staff, aka call center agents, from the offices of University Advancement, the President, the Provost, and Finance. On weekends, an agent checks for and returns messages daily. Most calls to this team are from parents checking on the services and protocols related to our Quarantine and Isolation programs.

If you have questions about the University's COVID operations and resources, call 509-313-7070 for these options:

**Students** - Press 1 to speak with a contact tracer for assistance with a ZagCheck red pass error, or if you have concerns or questions about COVID symptoms, exposure, or a positive test result. This line is personally managed from 9am to 9pm every day, and there is an opportunity to leave a message.

**Employees** – Press 2 to speak with a call center agent, or

- Email news of your positive COVID-19 test result to [leavesaccommodations@gonzaga.edu](mailto:leavesaccommodations@gonzaga.edu)
- Contact your health provider for COVID symptoms or exposure

**Parents and others** – Press 3 to speak with a call center agent.

COVID-related inquiries are taken seriously and are tracked and reported to university leaders. While not every coronavirus-related call coming into Gonzaga funnels through the Hotline, the careful and personal attention of our contact tracers and call agents assist in the overall effort to safely manage the campus, help to support updates and refinements to the [ZagOn](#) site and guide university communications.

Thanks to our IT team for designing and managing the system, and to all who contribute to the personal attention of students, parents, and employees.



## **Gonzaga Partnering with Spokane Regional Health District**

Gonzaga continues discussions with the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) collaborating to find ways to help administer COVID-19 vaccines to our students, faculty, and staff and the underserved populations in our local community. As you can imagine, there are strict protocols that have to be adhered to regarding the various phases and eligibility and currently there is not an abundance of vaccine availability. Health and Counseling Services is working with our campus family in developing a proposal for vaccination options, the most prevalent being an on-site drive-through option. Many departments are collectively meeting multiple times each week to develop the details of the proposal. There are many unknowns, but we wanted you to know we are looking for ways to help our Gonzaga family and surrounding community as an extension of the wonderful work SRHD is doing. More to come.

## **Isolation and Quarantine Numbers - February 15-21**

### **Quarantine**

- Thirteen (13) students moved to quarantine residences
- Six (6) students directed to quarantine-in-place
- Seven (7) students released from quarantine
- One (1) student released from quarantine-in-place status

### **Isolation**

- Seventeen (17) students with positive test results moved to isolation residence
- Ten (10) students released after completing full isolation period
- One (1) symptomatic student released from isolation (tested negative)

### **Current Off-Campus Numbers as of 2/22**

**Quarantine:** 38

**Symptomatic Waiting Results:** 2

**Isolation:** 15