



**November 18, 2020**

## **Dear Students, Families, and Faculty and Gonzaga Colleagues,**

The health, safety and welfare of GU students and their families remains our top priority. In a recent message to our students and families, President McCulloh shared guidance regarding departures for the Thanksgiving holiday as well as the transition to remote learning. We felt it very important to share this information with you all so that you are aware of what services and programs are being put into place to work towards a safe and happy holiday:

1) We are asking all students, faculty and staff to take extra precautions and carefully follow all health requirements and guidelines in the two-week period leading up to Thanksgiving break. Follow all masking and social distancing requirements, minimize interactions with others outside of their roommates, housemates or close social group, avoid large gatherings, and shelter in place as much as possible leading up to November 25th or planned departure date.

2) Gonzaga will continue to offer free COVID-19 testing to students who believe they might have been exposed to someone with the virus, or who may be showing signs and symptoms, through November 20th. Students should plan to be tested at least three weekdays (Monday-Friday) prior to their planned departure to allow for test delivery and processing times. The turnaround time for results will be approximately 48 hours from the time the sample is received at the lab.

3) Gonzaga's quarantine and isolation space will continue to be available for students who need this support over the Thanksgiving break and/or after courses resume remotely on Nov. 30. This includes students who test positive for COVID-19 through the University's voluntary departure testing process and will need to isolate prior to leaving campus, per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. Students who are identified as needing to isolate or quarantine on or before November 20th are strongly encouraged to complete their isolation or quarantine period on campus or in another suitable single-occupancy space off campus before they leave for the remainder of the semester and remote learning.

4) For those students who plan to remain on campus for Thanksgiving and the remainder of the fall semester, campus services, departments and facilities will be operational and accessible (with modified hours for certain services over the long Thanksgiving holiday weekend). Campus Dining is planning a special Thanksgiving Dinner on November 26th with more information to follow, and other holiday events will occur as we move into the Advent season. More information regarding department and support services office hours for the post-Thanksgiving timeframe will be communicated early the week of November 23rd.

Campus departure and the transition to remote learning. For students who are preparing to leave campus for Thanksgiving break, please remember to take any belongings you will need for the remainder of the year until the start of the spring semester, including books, notes, instruments, sports gear, computers, mobile devices, charging/power cords, appropriate weather/season apparel and amount of clothing, medications, plants and other key personal items. Students who are not planning on returning to campus for the spring semester should plan to completely remove all personal belongings and check out of your room, following the process outlined by the Housing & Residence Life Department. Students who are departing their on-campus residence for the remainder of fall semester will not be permitted to return to their residence halls or access campus buildings until the start of the spring semester.

Zag Up and Zag On,

Dr. Kent Porterfield,  
Vice Provost for Student Affairs



## Washington State COVID-19 Related Restrictions

Recently, Washington State Gov. Jay Inslee held a press conference to issue new COVID-19 related restrictions in Washington.

The state, for the last two weeks, has been breaking previous infection records almost daily. The latest update brings Washington's totals to 127,731 cases and 2,519 deaths, according to the DOH. Officials also reported that 9,281 people have been hospitalized in the state because of the virus.

Today's announcement includes restrictions for the next 4 weeks that will go into effect at 11:59 pm Monday, November 16, or 11:59 pm Tuesday, November 17, for restaurants and bars. An overview from the Governor's Office about the new restrictions to combat the COVID-19 virus is available [here](#). Following is a sampling of the newly imposed restrictions.

- Retail stores, including grocery stores, and malls must limit occupancy to 25% and must close food court seating.
- Personal services, such as barber shops and salons, are limited to 25% capacity
- Restaurants and bars to shutdown indoor service and to limit outdoor service to parties of five or less
- Closure of indoor gyms, fitness centers, theaters, museums, bowling alleys, etc.
- Offices are required to mandate employees work from home, if possible, and must limit occupancy to 25% if they remain open; they must also be closed to the public.
- Long-term care facilities can accept visitors only in outdoor settings, with limited exceptions for end-of-life care and essential support personnel.
- Youth and adult sports are limited to outdoor only intra team practices and athletes must wear masks.
- Indoor gatherings, outside one's household, are prohibited unless participants quarantine for 14 days prior to the gathering or quarantine for seven days prior and receive a negative COVID-19 test within two days of the planned gathering.
- Outdoor social gatherings should be limited to no more than five people from outside your household.
- Religious services can continue, but must limit indoor attendance to 25% of capacity, or 200 people, whatever is less; Masks must be worn at all times and choirs, bands and congregational singing will be prohibited.
- Wedding and funeral ceremonies will be limited to 30 people, and receptions will be prohibited.
- Real estate open houses are prohibited.
- The new orders do not apply to schools or the court system, which are mostly operating remotely already.



November 18, 2020

## A Message from Dr. Kristiana Holmes

### Greetings to Gonzaga University Students and Families,

COVID-19 has been a presence in all our lives for many months now. Gonzaga University (GU) has responded to the pandemic with much success to this point. The success is due in large part to our students care and concern for the health of others in our community. As we are approaching the Thanksgiving holiday, I would like to share several important pieces of information with you.

- The positive COVID-19 case numbers have been increasing in <https://covid.srhd.org/topics/spokane-county-case-data> Spokane County, as they have in the country.
- Positive COVID-19 case numbers in the GU campus community remain low, with an average testing rate of approximately <https://www.gonzaga.edu/zagon/covid-19-dashboard-testing-contact-tracing>.
- GU has seen an uptick in positive cases recently placing us closer to a 3.32% positivity rate. This is not surprising considering the surrounding community numbers.
- Most airlines and other public transit do NOT allow travel for those who test positive for or have been exposed to COVID-19. Please be aware of this as you make travel plans.
- If a student is in a GU isolation or quarantine residence into the Thanksgiving holiday and chooses to leave campus, the student will not be able to return to their regular residence to obtain belongings due to public health concerns.
- Testing for students remains available for those who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed. Walk in testing also remains available through the week of November 16th (watch for additional information on dates / times).

### Before the Thanksgiving break, the best thing you can do for safe travels is:

- Limit your personal contacts to roommates or housemates, in essence sheltering in place. This is in alignment with the Governor's proclamation of contact with only households.
- Continue to mask and follow other public health measures
- Plan for car travel to your destination

Taking these steps will minimize your own exposure and keep those you may be traveling to see as healthy as possible.

Thank you to our students, families and the GU COVID-19 Action Response Team for your diligent efforts in combatting COVID-19. ZagOn!!

Sincerely,

Kristiana Holmes

Director, Health & Counseling Services



## Housing and Residence Life COVID-19 Mitigation

### Updates to Current Isolation and Quarantine Practices

Over the summer, we shared Arrival and Return to Gonzaga plans that included information about public health requirements and protocols being put into place for our campus community. Part of this communication was the acknowledgement on the part of our students of potential risk associated with returning to campus and the agreement of certain expectations to keep our community as safe and healthy as possible.

Prior to the start of the fall semester, we also shared plans for student support, which were informed by Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) and other health care partners. The models we developed have served us well thus far, in large part because our students and families have worked with us to uphold these recommendations. Managing isolation and quarantine spaces for the past few months has taught us a great deal about what works well and where the gaps may be. As you know, we have implemented continuous improvement plans to make improvements that better serve the needs of our students who move into isolation or quarantine. There have only been a small number of incidences where students have made decisions in contradiction to the direction we provided – direction that has been approved by the local health authority and is in the best interest of protecting our campus community. We are so proud of our students and families for working in partnership with us to make these situations a success.

Throughout the fall, our primary goal has been to protect the health and wellbeing of our students, faculty and staff. Our policies have been carefully developed, and we never want students and families to feel like they are without options or choices, especially during such a stressful time. Accordingly, we have recently developed new guidance that includes possible options for moving off-campus or returning home for isolation or quarantine. This will allow Gonzaga to uphold COVID-19 public health guidelines while also providing students, and families, more options to consider.



## STUDENT SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

1,050 students responded to a survey asking about their attitudes and behaviors related to COVID-19. Results indicate high levels of belief amongst students that it is their responsibility to exercise precautions necessary to minimize the spread of COVID-19, in addition to high rates of compliance. Results are being incorporated into a refresh of ZagOn health communication campaigns around campus, as we encourage students to #KeepItUpGU.

### Attitudes & Behaviors Survey

Over 1,000 students responded to a survey regarding COVID-19 attitudes and behaviors. Significant takeaways included:

- 99% practice regular hand washing or use of hand sanitizer
- 97.5% strongly agree/agree that it is their responsibility to wear a face covering while in public
  - 80% reported always wearing a face covering while in public and indoors
  - 75% of undergraduates and 66% of graduate students reported always wearing a face covering while in public and outdoors though the perception of GU students who always wear face covering was significantly lower
- 98% strongly agree/agree that it is their responsibility to practice physical distancing
- Over 90% strongly agree/agree that it is their responsibility to avoid large gatherings of people
  - 77.2% of undergraduates and 74% of graduate students have not hosted or attended a gathering or party (with >5 people they do not live with) in the past two weeks
- Close to half of our students would like tips for self-care and stress management while living and learning remotely, so we encourage you to have conversations with students about how you are also navigating life these days!

The ZagsConnected survey was distributed to all undergraduate students in October to better understand how students were managing remote learning, while also gathering input, and needs for supporting student success.

### Zags Connected Survey

Thank you to the 1,922 students who completed the Zags Connected survey. When asked what type of learning our students prefer:

- 45.7% favor all in person
- 41.9% prefer hybrid
- 12.4% prefer all remote

Many students reported that they miss seeing their friends in class and on-campus, but that they feel safer with remote learning, and that it is important to keep our community safe. A similar theme arose when students were asked what events they'd like to see this spring – intramurals and in-person events were the fan favorites. We will do our best to continue to offer a wide variety of in-person and virtual events.

In addition to connecting socially, students are working hard academically. When asked about their academic workload, the results were split: 37% said their workload is about the same or less than previous years, while 40% said the workload this semester is greater than normal. Students tended to agree that recorded lectures and live Zoom sessions are by far the most helpful elements to their learning.



## Updated Testing Information

A COVID-19 testing plan for the remainder of the Fall semester and the first several weeks of the Spring semester is provided in the table below. As communicated in Dr. McCulloh's most recent update, walk-in testing will continue through the week of (November 16-20) as well as the first three days of next week (November 23-25) prior to the Thanksgiving break closure. The COVID-19 testing schedule for the last weeks of the semester will be greatly influenced by the number of students who remain on-campus and in the community. For the period of time when students are home for Winter break, all testing will be suspended except for special populations (i.e., athletics). It is anticipated that all students will have the opportunity to be tested prior to resuming classes in January. Additional guidance will be provided in the weeks to come – specifically concerning the requirements for the return to campus. Testing schedules and plans will be updated for the Spring semester based upon facilities used for testing, frequency, and methods, as well as any other new information.

TEST PERIOD	On-campus Surveillance	Off-campus Surveillance	Walk-in	Signs, Symptoms, Exposures
11/9-13/2020	5% population	5% population	M/T/W/TH/F	M/T/W/TH/F
11/16-20/2020	suspended	suspended	closed	M/T/W/TH/F
11/23-27/2020	suspended	suspended	closed	M/T
11/30- 12/4/2020	based upon density	5% population	M/W/F	M/T/W/TH/F
12/7-11/2020	based upon density	suspended	T/TH	M/T/W/TH/F
12/14-18/2020	suspended	suspended	closed	M/T/W/TH/F
12/21-25/2020	suspended	suspended	closed	closed
12/28/2020 - 01/01/2021	suspended	suspended	closed	closed
01/4-8/2021	suspended	suspended	closed	closed
01/11-15/2021	suspended	suspended	TBD	closed
01/16-19/2021	suspended	suspended	Closed	Tuesday
01/20-22/2021	5% population	5% population	W/TH/F	W/TH/F
01/25-29/2021	10% population	10% population	M/T/W/TH/F	M/T/W/TH/F



## Updated Testing Information

	<b>Athletics</b>	<b>Law School</b>	<b>Nursing</b>
11/9-13/2020	as needed	open	Open
11/16-20/2020	as needed	open	Open
11/23-27/2020	as needed	closed	Closed
11/30- 12/4/2020	as needed	open	Open
12/7-11/2020	as needed	open	Open
12/14-18/2020	as needed	closed	Closed
12/21-25/2020	as needed	closed	Closed
12/28/2020 - 01/01/2021	as needed	closed	Closed
01/4-8/2021	as needed	closed	Closed
01/11-15/2021	as needed	open	Open
01/16-19/2021	as needed	closed	Closed
01/20-22/2021	as needed	open	open
01/25-29/2021	as needed	open	open

We are continuously reviewing our testing plan and make changes as new information is available.

Updates will be available in future newsletters and on the ZagOn website.



## ISOLATION & QUARANTINE NUMBERS 10/19-11/8

### 10/19-10/25

#### Quarantine

- Zero (0) students moved to quarantine residences
- Three (3) students directed to quarantine-in-place
- Eight (8) students released from quarantine
- Six (6) students released from quarantine-in-place status

#### Isolation

- Two (2) students with positive test results moved to isolation residence
- Five (5) students released after completing full isolation period
- One (1) symptomatic student released from isolation (tested negative)

### 10/26-11/1

#### Quarantine

- Five (5) students moved to quarantine residences
- Zero (0) students directed to quarantine-in-place
- Five (5) students released from quarantine
- Eight (8) students released from quarantine-in-place status

#### Isolation

- Two (2) students with positive test results moved to isolation residence
- Three (3) students released after completing full isolation period
- Seven (7) symptomatic students released from isolation (tested negative)

### 11/2-11/8

#### Quarantine

- Five (5) students moved to quarantine residences
- Eight (8) students directed to quarantine-in-place
- Two (2) students released from quarantine
- Four (4) students released from quarantine-in-place status

#### Isolation

- Six (6) students with positive test results moved to isolation residence
- Three (3) students released after completing full isolation period
- Four (4) symptomatic students released from isolation (tested negative)



## ISOLATION & QUARANTINE NUMBERS 11/9-11/15

### 11/9-11/15

#### Quarantine

- Seven (7) students moved to quarantine residences
- Seventeen (17) students directed to quarantine-in-place
- Three (3) students released from quarantine
- Six (6) students released from quarantine-in-place status

#### Isolation

- Fourteen (14) students with positive test results moved to isolation residence
- Six (6) students released after completing full isolation period
- Three (3) symptomatic students released from isolation (tested negative)