



Update from the Vice Provost for Student Affairs

LEADING IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

December 16, 2020

Dear Students, Families, and Faculty and Gonzaga Colleagues,

I hope this last newsletter of the semester finds you and your loved ones doing well as we enter the winter break. Thank you for your conscientious, dedicated, and persistent efforts to comply with the guidance and requirements Gonzaga University has provided this semester in an endeavor to keep everyone – students, faculty, staff, and guests – safe and healthy. During this difficult time, you have truly exemplified the character of our University.

With each new challenge, together we rose to the occasion to solve problems, create and innovate, and support each other. We have not been perfect, but we have been determined. We have not been immune to frustration, but we have always leaned on hope. Our faculty and staff deserve so much credit – you have taken on challenging workloads, managed considerable stress, and shown yourselves to be flexible and resilient. Our Jesuit mission and values have been our guide. Students, you have been nothing short of amazing. I am not exaggerating when I say we could not have done what we have done this semester without your cooperation and collaboration. I tip my hat to you, and I am deeply grateful. To all Zag families, thank you for your support, feedback that helped us identify issues and make necessary changes, and for sticking with us in hard times.

In this newsletter, I am sharing a few updates on testing, quarantine protocol, frequently asked questions, services and support for students in isolation and quarantine over winter break, guidance for return to campus in January, and some of our most recent COVID-19 data.

In closing, I want to extend my very best wishes to everyone in the Zag family for a safe and happy holiday season. I hope you enjoy time with loved ones, and are able to rest and renew your spirit. May God bless you all.

Zag Up and Zag On,

Dr. Kent Porterfield,
Vice Provost for Student Affairs



Changes In Quarantine Guidance

In accordance with newly adopted Spokane Regional Health District guidance, the Gonzaga University COVID-19 Action Response Team is updating the timeframe for those students experiencing quarantine. Beginning in January 2021, quarantine will end after 10 days provided that the student in quarantine has no symptoms, adheres to strict masking and distancing, and continues symptom monitoring through day 14. This replaces the former 14-day quarantine length. Contact tracers will be working with newly quarantined students in January to set up a quarantine and testing timeline based on this new guidance.

Updated Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs on the Zag On site are continuing to be updated as new information becomes available and processes are modified. Ahead of spring semester, please continue to review the [library of FAQs](#)

Isolation & Quarantine Over Winter Break

- Now through December 21, services and support for students in isolation and quarantine will be fully operational.
- Other than testing required by the NCAA for student athletes, Gonzaga will not be offering surveillance or walk-in testing between December 15 and January 19.
- Testing for students presenting signs and symptoms or who have had a high-risk exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, however, will be offered through Health & Counseling Services through December 18 and will begin again starting January 11 by appointment.
- Meal services for any student being housed in GU's isolation and quarantine facilities will be provided throughout the entirety of winter break.
- The Housing & Residence Life (HRL) office will close at the end of business on December 18 and will open 8 am-5 pm beginning on December 28, but HRL and Student Affairs staff will be "on call" over entirety of the Winter Break.



Preparing For Students' Return This January

To support a safe return to campus after winter break, we ask that all students observe the following guidance:

1. Reduce close contacts with people outside your living environment two weeks prior to the start of the Spring semester (January 19). Additionally, students should “quarantine at home” for the seven days immediately prior to returning to campus.
2. If you have symptoms consistent with those associated with COVID-19 prior to your travels back to Spokane, you should not return to GU until you have received a negative COVID-19 test.
3. Get tested for COVID-19 within 72 hours of your intended return to Gonzaga. If you have questions about testing, please call the COVID-19 Hotline number (509) 313-7070, ext. 1. You may also contact Health & Counseling Services at (509) 313-4066.
4. Once the semester begins, we will be continuing our support services to those students who need to isolate or quarantine.

Gonzaga University Health and Counseling Services (HCS) has COVID-19 testing available for those who may be exposed to COVID-19 or experiencing symptoms.

COVID-19 Testing: This fall we implemented a surveillance testing process, walk-in testing, and signs & symptoms testing, and have administered over 12,000 tests to date. We are grateful to all of you for your understanding of this process and support in its success. Student Affairs are continuing to formulate testing protocols for the spring with guidance from the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD). Information about our Spring semester testing program will be communicated prior to the resumption of classes.



Isolation & Quarantine - Weekly Recap (11/23 - 12/13)

11/23-11/29:

Quarantine

- One (1) students moved to quarantine residences
- Two (2) students directed to quarantine-in-place
- Four (4) students released from quarantine
- Twenty (20) students released from quarantine-in-place status

Isolation

- Five (5) students with positive test results moved to isolation residence
- Fifteen (15) students released after completing full isolation period
- Zero (0) symptomatic students released from isolation (tested negative)

11/30-12/6:

Quarantine

- One (1) students moved to quarantine residences
- One (1) students directed to quarantine-in-place
- One (1) students released from quarantine
- Twelve (12) students released from quarantine-in-place status

Isolation

- Four (4) students with positive test results moved to isolation residence
- Ten (10) students released after completing full isolation period
- One (1) symptomatic students released from isolation (tested negative)

12/7-12/13:

Quarantine

- Zero (0) students moved to quarantine residences
- Two (2) students directed to quarantine-in-place
- Zero (0) students released from quarantine
- One (1) students released from quarantine-in-place status

Isolation

- Six (6) students with positive test results moved to isolation residence/directed to isolate in place
- Six (6) students released after completing full isolation period
- One (1) symptomatic students released from isolation (tested negative)



COVID-19 Positive Case Analysis

Below are updated statistics for the positive case analysis through 12/13/2020. Key takeaways are that more than 1/3 of GU's positive cases have come from students who were already in quarantine, making the contact tracing efforts crucial to preventing the spread of the virus. The top identified sources of viral transmission have been from social gatherings or from roommates/housemates.

N = 221	Total	Percent
Residential Status:		
Off:	114	52%
On:	107	48%
Symptom Presentation:		
Symptomatic	160	72%
Asymptomatic:	61	28%
Quarantine Status:		
Not in Quarantine:	139	63%
Already in Quarantine:	82	37%
Exposure Type:		
Unknown:	83	38%
Roommate/housemate:	57	26%
Social - non-roommate/housemate:	54	24%
Athletics:	15	7%
Significant Other:	7	3%
Off-campus gym:	3	1%
Off-campus work:	2	1%

Testing for COVID-19

For cumulative testing totals, please refer to the dashboard at www.gonzaga.edu/zagon.