

From: Dean of Students <dos@linfield.edu>

Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 1:32 PM

To: McMinnville Students

Subject: Important COVID Information - Please read entire message

Dear Wildcats,

I hope your spring semester is off to a good start.

We had a very successful fall semester regarding COVID-19, and if we are going to follow that up with a successful spring semester, it will take everyone's commitment to make this work. We are all in this together. It is MOST important that students stay on campus; please do not go home, don't visit friends elsewhere and follow all protocols if you work off campus. We must keep the Linfield bubble protected and we are all in this together.

Please follow these guidelines in helping us keep our virus caseload low on campus:

- **Wear your face covering** – This is the most effective measure you can take in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Face coverings should be worn at all times while indoors (the exception is in your own residence hall room or apartment with your roommate(s)). Face coverings should be worn at all times outdoors. Make sure to wear your face covering properly. Your nose and mouth must be covered!
- Keep your "family unit" to just your roommate(s). Expanding your social bubble to involve others can increase the spread of COVID-19. Most of the cases we have experienced this semester have been a result of students who expanded their social bubble. When with others outside of your "family unit," wear a face covering and maintain physical distancing.
- Avoid eating with those outside of your "family unit".
- Avoid riding in cars with those outside of your "family unit". If you must ride in a car, please wear a face covering, drive with the windows rolled down and spread out seating as much as you safely can in the vehicle.
- Consider wearing two masks to minimize the risk of COVID when you are in an enclosed space with other such as riding in a care or in a laboratory setting.
- We need all members of our community to follow our physical distancing policy. When in class or during activities on campus, please make sure you are maintaining at least 6 feet of physical distancing.
- Monitor your health daily. If you are not feeling well, stay home and contact the [Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center](#) via phone at 503-883-2535. Even mild symptoms should be a reason to change your behavior, self-quarantine and contact the Student Health Center.

We have already experienced 16 positive cases among students on campus this spring semester (some of whom have already completed their isolation). Yamhill County is in the extreme risk category, so COVID is in our community. The virus burden is really high right now, and you cannot tell who has COVID by looking at them. It is up to all of us to practice these protective measures to keep the spread of COVID-19 limited. The best way to protect you and your friends is to minimize the risk of COVID by following all of the safety recommendations and guidelines.

The Student Health Center staff is responding quickly and getting students into isolation/quarantine spaces. Contact tracing is being conducted by Yamhill Public Health and the Student Health Center.

However, specific information about possible cases is part of a student's medical record, and therefore, won't be shared with the community. The university's aggregate numbers will continue to be reported through Linfield Ahead and on linfield.edu/covid every Monday.

While it can be distressing to learn about a friend of a friend or a classmate who tested positive for COVID, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines a contact as someone who has more than 15 minutes of contact in a 24 hour period at less than six feet apart with someone who tests positive for COVID. If you fit that definition, please contact the Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center. People who have had contact with someone who has had contact with a positive case ARE NOT considered at risk for exposure to COVID and don't need to quarantine or avoid going to class. We do recommend people who fit in this category monitor their health closely and take their temperature twice a day and notify their health care provider if they become ill.

All the best this semester,

Jeff Mackay

Dean of Students

He | Him | His ([Learn more here.](#))

900 SE Baker St. A490 | McMinnville, OR 97128-6984

503.883.2436 | [Linfield College Student Affairs](#)



Land Acknowledgement for Linfield University

Linfield University is located in the traditional territory of the Yamel ("Yam Hill") band of the Kalapuya. After the 1855 Kalapuya Treaty (Treaty of Dayton), Kalapuya people were forcibly removed and are now members of the [Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde](#).