



Update from the Vice Provost for Student Affairs

LEADING IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

March 10, 2021

Dear Students, Families, Faculty and Gonzaga Colleagues,

It's March Madness, and we are excited to cheer on our Zags in a safe and community-minded way. Gonzaga is experiencing some concerning COVID-19 trends. With the weather changing and the spring-itch upon us, we have to keep our eyes on the ball and remain diligent in our mask-wearing and social-distancing efforts in order to reverse these trends. I provide a reminder on conduct and compliance below.

Part of our social responsibility involves responding to Surveillance Testing Notifications. Students, if you are contacted to get a test, we would appreciate your cooperation in doing so. By sampling and testing at random, the University can monitor trends, and we may be able to "head-off" further spread. The success of surveillance testing depends greatly upon your participation.

In this week's newsletter you will find information about:

- Conduct and compliance
- Surveillance testing
- Travel reminders
- The Kennel Club's Celebration of March Madness
- Safer ways to socialize
- 2021-2022 housing sign-up process
- Vaccinations
- CHAS Health's Clinic on GU's campus
- Quarantine and isolation

Following our guidance and expectations for COVID-19 prevention honors our collective commitment to each other and our Gonzaga community. We welcome your suggestions, questions or sharing of concerns. Please visit the [ZagOn site](#) for the most updated information on Gonzaga's pandemic response efforts or call the COVID-19 Hotline at 509-313-7070.

Zag Up and Zag On,

Dr. Kent Porterfield,
Vice Provost for Student Affairs



March 10, 2021

Help Reverse Gonzaga's COVID-19 Trends Conduct and Compliance

COVID-19 vaccine clinics, warmer weather, and March Madness may make it seem as if everything is going great. In reality, Gonzaga is experiencing some concerning COVID-19 trends right now, and we need your help to reverse these trends.

- While Spokane County COVID-19 case counts have decreased, Gonzaga University cases have actually increased in recent weeks. Our share of county-wide cases is higher than it has been, but we can do something about it. Let's continue to be leaders in stopping the spread of COVID-19 in Eastern Washington.
- We are seeing increased transmission between on-and off-campus students, and the spread is primarily due to large gatherings rather than restricting activities to defined COVID-19 households. We must do our part to protect our Spokane community, so we are reiterating that large gatherings cannot be tolerated. Gonzaga is partnering with Spokane Police Department to enforce our no-parties expectation, and off-campus properties causing a disturbance should expect to be issued ordinance violations.
- We are observing an increase in the number of students not wearing masks or physically distancing while on campus or in the Spokane area. While all of us are likely experiencing mask-wearing weariness, we cannot let our guard down now. Let's continue to follow health and safety protocols and hold each other accountable.

The choices we make every day directly affect the health and safety of those around us and have actual implications as well as consequences. Accordingly, failure to follow Gonzaga's safety protocols and behavioral expectations may result in Code of Conduct infractions with significant University responses. The last thing we want to do is take disciplinary action when students do not comply with our COVID-19 requirements, but we will do so if necessary.

Increasing Emphasis on Surveillance Testing this Semester

[Dr. McCulloh's latest video](#) on the importance of continuing to practice safety protocols to combat the spread of COVID-19 on campus and in the community underscores the need for students to participate in surveillance testing.

"If you're contacted to come and get a test, we ask that you please respond," he reminds us. "We are really trying to do everything we can to help manage the virus within our community."

While on-demand, walk-in testing provides a snapshot in time of whether or not an individual is infected, surveillance testing plays an important role in monitoring trends and indicating where and when threats may be present within a larger population.

Surveillance testing is generally used to monitor community occurrence of a disease outbreak or prevalence within the community, such as in our campus community. Surveillance testing is one way to help us determine if our public health interventions are working. This is particularly valuable information with asymptomatic populations (such as college students). By testing a representative population – involving both those who may have been sick and those who have not – we can get a broader picture of the disease presence in our community.



Each week about 20% of the student population is identified at random to be tested. Brief emails are sent weekly by Eric Baldwin, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Student Wellbeing & Healthy Living, directly to students selected for testing. Care is taken to make sure testing is conveniently timed (10am-4pm, Mondays through Thursdays), and easy to access (lower level of Welch Hall in the former Sub Shop). Nursing students are administering the tests. Results are reported to Health & Counseling Services within 48 hours and students are notified immediately if they test positive.

Both the CDC and the Spokane Regional Health District recommend the strategic use of surveillance testing as part of a community's self-monitoring. We appreciate the cooperation of everyone in making this work here at Gonzaga!

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 urge 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 a test and arrange an appointment by contacting Eric Baldwin (baldwine@gonzaga.edu). This does not apply to travel to areas where tests are not required by state or federal agencies.
- We recommend 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, and keep a copy of your result with you during travel in case you are asked to show it.
- **DO NOT TRAVEL IF YOU TEST POSITIVE.** Immediately isolate yourself, follow public health recommendations, call the COVID-19 hotline at (509) 313-7070 and select option 1.

After you return from travel

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



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The Kennel Club Celebration of March Madness

The Remix will be happening on either March 19 or 20 (depending on the day of the Zags' first game)! There will be fun activities throughout the day, merchandise giveaways, and an overall celebration of Zag spirit! Those attending will watch the Zags' game on Foley Field, cheering our team to a big win! Be on the lookout for more information coming soon! *Plans for this event have been reviewed with the health district to ensure compliance with COVID-19 guidance and public health requirements.*

Safe Practices Reminder

We continue to remind students of safe practices as the pandemic continues. Here are a couple of reminders that are being posted around campus:

- Recognizing who's actually in your bubble
 - <https://www.gonzaga.edu/-/media/Website/Documents/ZagOn/zag-on-social-bubbles-flyer.ashx>
- Ways to stay safe as your group expands
 - <https://www.gonzaga.edu/-/media/Website/Documents/ZagOn/zag-on-stay-strong-flyer.ashx>

We also encourage you to check out the [student resources](#) page on myGU!



2021-2022 Housing Sign-Up Process Update

We spend a lot of time during the Spring Semester preparing for the next academic year. This year, that is even more true as we are making plans to be fully in person for Fall 2021. In Housing & Residence Life, we are currently conducting sign-up processes for rising sophomores.

Here are some important dates and notes about the room selection process:

- Housing applications are open on ZagLiving (Gonzaga's housing portal).
- The due date for applications is March 20. Students who submit their applications by this deadline will be randomly assigned a time slot for room selection. Students who turn in their applications after the deadline will receive later time slots.
- On March 29, time slots for room selection will be emailed to all students who have completed their housing applications.
- Room selection takes place online in ZagLiving.

Roommates

We recognize this year has created some unique challenges with students not having the same opportunities to socialize and connect with their peers as in previous years. Accordingly, we will be hosting a roommate matching event on Zoom on March 10 from 7-8pm, and we encourage students to join us in session to meet and socialize with other Zags. We also have a private Facebook group, Gonzaga Housing & Residence Life Roommate Finder, that students can request to join. In this group, students can message and connect with other students seeking roommates.

Roommate Groups

Roommate groups are formed in the housing application and must be established before room selection to function correctly. Students can create, join, or leave roommate groups as they wish. Roommate groups allow students to pair with a preferred roommate or roommates. The student in the roommate group that receives the earliest time slot is able to assign all students in the roommate group to a shared room/apartment/suite, assuming there are enough open beds open to accommodate the group. We remind students that they should have a plan in place to break up their roommate group in the event that a space large enough to accommodate their group is not available at their selection time. The student with the earliest time slot cannot assign students in the group to multiple rooms/apartments/suites.

Building Options

Rising sophomores are able to select from traditional, apartment, and suite-style buildings. More information about the styles of housing at Gonzaga are located [here](#).

These are the buildings for rising sophomores: Burch, Corkery, Cushing, DeSmet, Dillon, Dooley, Dussault, Kennedy, Madonna, Marian, Sharp Apartments, Twohy and Welch.

Students' flexibility in the process is greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, not everyone who wants to live in an apartment will be able to select one, just as not all groups of 4 or more students will be able to select a space to accommodate their whole group.

If you still have questions about room selection, reach out to us. We are available and happy to help! housing@gonzaga.edu



When Can You Get Vaccinated?

You may have questions on when you are eligible to get the vaccine. According to the Washington State Department of Health, Washington is in Phase 1B, Tier 1. In addition to Phase 1B, Tier 1, teachers and childcare workers are eligible. The following link provides an update on the phases and eligibility requirements.

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/VaccinationPhasesInfographic.pdf>

Gonzaga Partners With CHAS Health

Hundreds of Gonzaga faculty, staff and administrators stepped up recently to serve the Spokane community during the COVID-19 pandemic when the University accepted an invitation by CHAS Health to use the Martin Centre Fieldhouse to safely and efficiently distribute vaccine to its patients.

Gonzaga hosted vaccination centers from February 26 through March 2 and March 4-6. In addition to the dozen people who supported the clinics as part of their job duties, 513 volunteers, mostly faculty and staff, served in various roles.

Nearly two dozen employees volunteered for more than one shift of between 4-5 hours. Several Jesuits volunteered, as well. Overall, more than 5,500 hours of labor were devoted to the effort by non-clinical volunteers to help vaccinate an estimated 7,261 people over 8 days.

GU student nurses helped administer the vaccinations, along with volunteer student nurses from Washington State University's College of Nursing.

CHAS Health is a nonprofit, federally qualified health center that provides high-quality health care services to families and individuals of all ages throughout the Inland Northwest.



Isolation and Quarantine Numbers – March 1 – 7

On-campus numbers decreased, however, off-campus numbers increased.

March 1-7 On-Campus

Quarantine

- Eighteen (18) students moved to quarantine residences
- Three (3) students directed to quarantine-in-place
- Twenty-five (25) students released from quarantine
- Two (2) students released from quarantine-in-place status

Isolation

- Four (4) students with positive test results moved to isolation residence
- Eighteen (18) students released after completing full isolation period
- One (1) symptomatic student released from isolation (tested negative)

As of March 8 Off-Campus

Quarantine

- 61 students

Isolation

- 16 students