



Update from the Vice Provost for Student Affairs

LEADING IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

March 23, 2021

Dear Students, Families, Faculty and Gonzaga Colleagues,

COVID-19 vaccine clinics, warmer weather, and March Madness may make it seem as if everything is going great, but Gonzaga has experienced some concerning COVID-19 trends in recent weeks. We are at a critical juncture and are asking for your cooperation to reverse these trends.

While Spokane County COVID-19 case counts have decreased, Gonzaga University cases actually bumped up in February and March. Our share of county-wide cases is exceeding Gonzaga's population footprint. To date, we've been a leader in limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our region, and we want this to continue.

We are seeing increased transmission between off-to-on and on-to-off campus students, due to multi household gatherings. To protect the community, we simply cannot tolerate social gatherings where COVID-19 health and safety protocols are not being followed. We are also observing and receiving more reports of students not wearing masks or socially distancing while on campus or in the Spokane area, so this is a reminder to keep following those rules. We know many are experiencing mask-wearing weariness, but continuing to follow the State's health and safety protocols is an absolute must.

We are fortunate to have a robust testing and contact tracing program, but it is imperative that students cooperate fully when asked to test, or when asked for information by our contact tracers. Failing to cooperate risks everyone's health. The UK variant of COVID-19 is now present in Spokane County, and while this was not unexpected, the threat it poses for rapid spreading requires that everyone be especially mindful of their contacts and social behaviors. The choices we make every day directly affect public health and safety, so our actions have consequences. Policy infractions will result in significant University responses.

Gonzaga is moving quickly to plan to follow the guidelines of Phase 3 of the State of Washington's reopening plan, and we hope to have new guidance for campus events out very soon.

Please join us in making a final strong push to complete the semester safely. Let's enjoy these last few weeks, and do it responsibly. As always, we welcome your thoughts, questions or concerns. Please visit our [ZagOn](#) site for updated information or call the COVID-19 Hotline at 509-313-7070.

Zag Up and Zag On,

Dr. Kent Porterfield,
Vice Provost for Student Affairs



March 23, 2021

COVID-19 Responsibilities, Ownership and Accountability

Governor Inslee recently announced that all counties, including Spokane County, will be moving to COVID-19 Phase 3 in the [Roadmap to Recovery](#), effective March 22, 2021. Gonzaga will continue to address a range of student behaviors, from isolated incidents such as not wearing a mask, to more significant incidents, such as hosting gatherings that do not comply with expectations.

What are Your Responsibilities?

- Stay informed.

Remain aware of [State of Washington requirements](#) and [Gonzaga University expectations](#).

Restrictions are still in place and subject to change at any time. Each community member is responsible for knowing and responding to up-to-date information.

- Gather appropriately.

Gonzaga's greatest COVID-19 spread continues to be linked to larger social gatherings or those combining multiple households. This pattern must stop. Know the gathering size limits for off-campus and University-owned, operated and leased properties. Phase 3 limits at-home outdoor gatherings to 50 and indoor gatherings to 10 people outside your household. Don't engage in gatherings focused on substance use or partying.

- Host cautiously and responsibly.

Gonzaga continues to have no tolerance for hosting larger social gatherings, those combining multiple households, or not in alignment with statewide or University standards. Understand your obligations and risks as host and plan accordingly. Spokane Police Department is identifying nuisance properties and will be issuing ordinance citations.

- Stay safe.

Wear a mask. Physically distance. Participate in testing and contact tracing. Incidents that put the community's health at risk are not tolerated.

What Does Ownership Look Like?

- Lead by example and model the way for others.
- Don't blame or make excuses.
- Consider others before self.
- Engage in thoughtful decision making.
- Consider the best possible combination of behavior and judgment.

What Does Accountability Look Like?

The question isn't, "what does accountability look like?" The question is, "**how will you take responsibility and lean into ownership?**" When that happens, accountability turns into positive results.

When responsibility and ownership do not occur, the University will enact accountability measures. Credible reports of actions that endanger the health and safety of the community or demonstrate a willful pattern of non-compliance may result in [Administrative Actions](#) and significant responses such as fines, probation, remote class attendance, removal from University housing, suspension or expulsion.

See the [Resolution Center's COVID-19 Response](#) for more information about the University's response to COVID-19 and other



Dispelling Myths of COVID-19

I already had COVID-19 in the past, can I still spread it?

If you have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days and have a new exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, you will not be directed to test or quarantine if exposed to COVID-19 again. Recovered positive students should continue good public health practices such as mask-wearing and social distancing.

If I test positive, how long do I need to stay away from others?

Individuals who test positive are required to isolate for 10 full days following the onset of COVID-19 symptoms, or 10 days following the date of the positive test if symptoms are not present. On the 11th day, the individual can end isolation only if they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and all other symptoms are improving. After you complete your isolation, there is a significantly lower risk of spreading COVID-19 to others. Current public health data suggests that re-infection is rare but not impossible. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 again, work with your healthcare provider to determine the cause and isolate from others if you are feeling ill. ([learn more about isolation here](#))

Can having contact with just one person outside my “bubble” impact me and others?

Each interaction with someone outside of your household or “bubble,” especially interactions without proper masking or social distancing, increases the risk of spreading COVID-19 from household to household or bubble to bubble. If you test positive for COVID-19, not only will those within your household need to quarantine, others with whom you came in contact outside of your bubble will need to quarantine as well ([see information on “When to Quarantine” here](#)).

Unfortunately, Gonzaga Contact Tracers have seen this happen within our own student population. COVID-19 has spread from household to household with just small interactions resulting in many students in quarantine. For example, if you are at Jack and Dan’s with a group of friends from different households and one of you tests positive, there is now a risk that COVID-19 can spread throughout each of those households. If you want to socialize with others outside of your household, we recommend that you are masked, socially distanced and outside.

I tested positive but don’t have any symptoms – could it be a false positive?

About 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 experience no symptoms at all. This is most common in young and healthy people, so do not assume your test result is a false positive if you are asymptomatic. False positives are fairly uncommon. If you have questions about your test results, work with your healthcare provider directly and continue to isolate in the meantime.

I got vaccinated – what now?

Congratulations! We are excited to see many of our community members begin to receive their vaccinations. People are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, OR
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine



If it has been less than two weeks since your shot, or if you still need to get your second dose, you are not fully protected and should continue to take extra precautions.

After that two-week period, there are a few changes. For example, you will not be directed to quarantine if exposed to someone with COVID-19. You should still continue to wear your mask and socially distance in public spaces. [Learn more about the do's and don'ts of being vaccinated here.](#)

Campus Security and Logan Neighborhood Outreach

What an exciting time to be a Zag! As we cheer on our women and men's basketball teams, Campus Security & Public Safety along with the Spokane Police Department encourage you to continue to keep each other safe during this pandemic. If you are going to have or attend a watch party, keep your group small and follow all guidelines from the University and the Governor's Office including social distancing and the wearing of face coverings.

You will see an increased presence of Campus Security and Spokane Police in the Logan Neighborhood on the weekends during March Madness to ensure our students are safe, being respectful neighbors and abiding by all laws and guidance put forth by the Governor's Office.

Students in the Logan Neighborhood will be contacted by Campus Security and/or the Spokane Police Department if a complaint is received or if unlawful activity is observed. If a gathering becomes larger than intended and help is needed to disperse unwelcomed guests, call Campus Security & Public Safety for help at any time of day or night at 509-313-2222.

Safe, In-Person Activities

We are continuously evaluating how to best meet the emotional, physical, spiritual and social needs of our campus community. We recognize that students have a need to gather together in community as peers. As Washington State moves into Phase 3, some opportunities exist for safe, in-person programming that may not have been possible in the recent past.

The Kennel Club "Tent City Remix" that was held last weekend is a good example of this. With this in mind, we encourage any student club that would like to host in-person events or programs to submit a request through [ZagTivities](#). The Center for Student Involvement will work with clubs on how to host that event within the current guidance we have on room occupancy, face coverings, physical distancing, etc.

Additionally, Intramural sports are opening back up with current softball, pickle ball and ping pong leagues being run. Check out [Intramurals](#) and the [IM Leagues website](#) for registration information and the latest information about the Rudolf Fitness Center, recreation classes and the pool.



Gonzaga Planning Five Outdoor Commencement Ceremonies

Gonzaga University announced that it is planning to hold five outdoor commencement ceremonies May 8-9 at Mead School District's Union Stadium – a new, 4,500-seat football complex.

“With the move to Phase 3 under Washington’s Road to Recovery Plan, we have been given guidance that will allow for in-person degree-granting ceremonies,” President Thayne McCulloh announced in a message to the community, noting the ceremonies are among “the most anticipated events in the lives of our students and their families.”

Each of five planned ceremonies will be live-streamed via the web and will also be recorded so that those unable to attend can participate remotely. Commencement ceremonies for the Law School and graduate degree programs are set for Saturday, May 8 with three undergraduate ceremonies Sunday, May 9. Details for each ceremony will be announced.

COVID restrictions require Gonzaga to plan for the following: All participants – graduates, guests and others – will be expected to adhere to all health and safety protocols, including wearing of protective masks, physical distancing, etc.; and multiple ceremonies will allow each graduate to invite at least three and possibly four guests, depending on how many graduates elect to participate in the ceremonies.

“It is important to note that these plans are made in conjunction with the Spokane Regional Health District and subject to change,” President McCulloh noted. “We appreciate your patience as we continue to plan in an ever-changing environment and look forward to celebrating graduation.”

More information will be available at the [Commencement website](#).



Isolation and Quarantine Numbers – March 15 – 21

March 15-21 On-Campus

Quarantine

- Sixteen (16) students moved to quarantine residences
- Five (5) students directed to quarantine-in-place
- Twenty-three (23) students released from quarantine
- Six (6) students released from quarantine-in-place status

Isolation

- Eight (8) students with positive test results moved to isolation residence
- Four (4) students released after completing full isolation period
- Zero (0) symptomatic student released from isolation (tested negative)

Current Off-Campus Numbers as of March 15

Quarantine

- 36 students

Symptomatic Waiting Results

- 1 student

Isolation

- 14 students