



January 10, 2022

## Spring Semester Updates

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Dear Stout Faculty and Staff,

Today we kicked off the first day of our [January Professional Development Weeks](#), which started with welcoming more than twenty new faculty and staff to the university as part of the New@Stout program. We also hosted an employee forum during which university and Return to Spring updates were provided. The presentation recording, PowerPoint presentation, and responses to unanswered questions will be available [online](#) by the end of the week.

### Return to Spring

While the COVID-19 landscape continues to evolve, we have been working diligently to ensure our protocols help safeguard our faculty, staff, students, and greater Menomonie community. We look forward to an engaging Spring Semester with our traditional offerings of in-person, online, and hybrid courses, as well as athletic events and programming. We are finalizing our comprehensive Return to Spring document and plan to release this document by the end of this week. While the document is being finalized, we are sharing some important information below to help prepare for the Spring Semester. Please continue to review our [COVID-19 website](#) and email [covid19update@uwstout.edu](mailto:covid19update@uwstout.edu) with questions.

### Vaccine and Booster

Our best defense against COVID-19 is the vaccine and staying current with available booster doses. If you have not been vaccinated or received your booster dose, please consider doing so. We strongly encourage all of our faculty, staff, and students to be fully vaccinated and have their booster prior to the start of classes. In addition to reducing the risk of serious illness or hospitalization, the vaccine and booster can limit your need to quarantine if you are identified as a close contact. Please visit this [website](#) to find a vaccine opportunity near you. We will also be offering vaccine clinics during the semester, with our first campus vaccine clinic scheduled for January 28. Additional details will be shared soon.

### Quarantine and Isolation Guidance

The CDC recently announced new [quarantine and isolation guidance](#). After consultation with the Dunn County Health Department, we have adopted the new isolation and quarantine guidance for our faculty and staff. The new guidance shortens quarantine and isolation timelines with additional

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mask-wearing guidance for public spaces. We are still in discussion with the Dunn County Health Department regarding quarantine and isolation guidelines for students. Those guidelines will be documented in our Return to Spring plan. Quarantine and isolation guidance may vary by County Health Departments. If you receive instructions that differ from Stout's guidelines, please email [covid19update@uwstout.edu](mailto:covid19update@uwstout.edu) for clarification.

### **Mask and Testing Order**

Due to the continued high COVID-19 transmission rate in Dunn County, we will be extending our masking and testing order through March 11, 2022. The new masking and testing order will be effective January 24, 2022 and is available [online](#). Until then, the current masking and testing order is in effect through January 23, 2022 and is also available [online](#).

### **Testing**

Testing will continue to be offered by Weber Health in the West Gym through at least April 1. Please visit the [testing website](#) for information on testing hours and to register for a test. Individuals who are symptomatic should be tested immediately, and individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 should be tested five days after the last COVID-19 exposure.

In accordance with our Mask and Testing Order, we will require testing as follows:

- Unvaccinated employees: every other week beginning the week of January 24.
- Unvaccinated students: every other week beginning the week of January 31.
- Unvaccinated Residence Hall students: every other week beginning the week of January 24.

Campus faculty, staff, and students are welcome to use the testing facility regardless of vaccination status.

### **Masking**

Correct and consistent mask use is a key piece to prevent contracting and spreading COVID-19. Masks will continue to be required in all indoor public spaces, except when students are in their assigned residence hall rooms and employees are alone in a private, unshared office or lab. The CDC isolation and quarantine guidance details the importance of a well-fitting mask following quarantine or isolation. Please review the [CDC website](#) for more information about the recommendations for effective mask use.

### **Student Communication**

We communicated with our students this afternoon regarding our Return to Spring plans. The communication to students is available [online](#).

As we have done during the past two years, we will continue to monitor changing conditions and adjust as necessary. Thank you all for your continued efforts in supporting student success, and your commitment to the health and safety of the entire UW-Stout community.

Best Regards,



Katherine P. Frank  
Chancellor

# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STOUT

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