



Dear UW-Stout Students,

I hope you all have had an enjoyable, healthy, and restful winter break! 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.

Return to Spring

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 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. If you have been fully vaccinated, defined as two weeks after receiving your final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and have not yet uploaded your information, you may do so [here](#).

Quarantine and Isolation Guidance

We recognize that some students may be in quarantine or isolation at the start of the Spring semester. It is important that students remain in isolation and quarantine, and do not come to campus until the conclusion of their isolation or quarantine periods. If

you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and have not been tested, please do not return to campus until you have been tested. Students should communicate directly with their instructors regarding their need to miss class. Instructors will work with students to accommodate COVID-19 related absences.

The CDC recently announced new [quarantine and isolation guidance](#). 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.

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

Residence hall students should watch their UW-Stout email carefully, as additional testing instructions will be sent separately to you. 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 students in their assigned residence hall rooms and employees when 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.

As we have done during the past two years, we will continue to monitor changing conditions and adjust as necessary. We all look forward to welcoming you to the start of the Spring Semester soon!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katherine P. Frank', written in a cursive style.

Katherine P. Frank
Chancellor



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