

Subject: Message on behalf of Pa. y Haddland, Director of Student Health, Wellness and Counseling
Date: Monday, January 3, 2022 at 3:46:11 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Sco. Nelson
To: Patricia Haddeland
Attachments: image001.jpg

Dear Linfield community,

As students and employees return to campus amid a new wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to remind you that Linfield is well-positioned and well-prepared for what comes next. We have protocols in place to handle positive cases reported in our community, a team monitoring changes to the pandemic and how they may affect our community and a diligent group of students, staff and faculty who have continued to do what it takes to keep our campuses as healthy as possible. Thank you for your continued efforts this year.

Linfield continues to work closely with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and our public health officials in Yamhill and Multnomah Counties on its COVID-19 protocols. Currently, OHA and the local health authorities have not adopted the new Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for shorter isolation and quarantine periods. Linfield will continue with its [current isolation and quarantine protocols](#) until our state and local partners recommend making updates.

Even with these measures in place, it's easy to be worried about COVID-19 and the omicron variant. While we should all remain as diligent as possible, Linfield's campuses have much to our benefit right now:

- January Term has just begun, which means fewer people on both the McMinnville and Portland campuses for the next five weeks (about 450 students are registered for the January Term on the McMinnville campus compared to approximately 1,300 in the fall). By the time the spring semester starts in February and campus populations increase, we will know more about omicron and what changes, if any, need to be made on campus. Students and employees on both campuses should continue to practice all recommended safety protocols.
- The Linfield community benefits from high vaccination rates among students, faculty and staff. Roughly 96% of all students (McMinnville and Portland campuses) are vaccinated and 93% of all employees are vaccinated. See more information about vaccinations and positive cases on Linfield's [new COVID-19 dashboard](#).
- Data has shown that vaccines plus booster shots are providing the best protection against all strains of COVID-19. If you haven't received your booster shot yet, students and employees are invited to schedule one through the McMinnville campus' [Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center](#). The full vaccine series plus booster is recommended for all Linfield students and employees.

Unfortunately, even 100% vaccination does not offer absolute protection. While these layers protection greatly minimize transmission of COVID-19, we have had several students report COVID-19 infections during winter break.

A handful of students from three Linfield athletic teams active this winter were exposed to someone who tested positive. Everyone involved has been notified, and one team is already out of the isolation period. Other students who were exposed are following all recommended protocols and will be

tested this week in the Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center.

As a reminder, it takes all of us to keep our community safe. Face coverings continue to be required inside campus buildings and outdoors when physical distancing cannot be maintained. High-grade masks – designated as N95 or KN95 – work better than cloth masks to halt to spread of the omicron variant, but double masking with a combination of disposable and cloth masks can offer good protection, as well. Linfield currently does not require higher-grade masks. As a reminder, gaiters and bandanas do little to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. [See the full face covering policy](#) and recommendations for more information. Please continue to wash your hands frequently and stay home when you are ill. The latest coronavirus updates and policies can be found on [Linfield's COVID-19 webpage](#) (linfield.edu/covid) and in Linfield Ahead, every Monday and Thursday.

Regards,

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