



## HEALTHY TOGETHER UPDATE

In early January, as we were making decisions about returning to campus, the prevalence of COVID-19 infections was surging. Therefore, we required students to obtain a negative test prior to their return, and we restricted access to and from campus while we waited for the campus situation to stabilize and local rates of infection to decrease.

We are pleased to report that local metrics have **decreased** significantly and we can now begin to adjust some of our campus protocols based on this recent evidence. Nevertheless, it is important to recognize that the **pandemic continues** here in Georgia and surrounding states. Even in Rome, although the situation has improved, infection levels remain problematic. Just yesterday, **city schools in Rome closed** until February 5 with more than 750 students and staff quarantined.

### **Campus Access Policy**

**As of 8 p.m. today, January 27, students with decals will be able to use the automatic entry gates to campus for local travel.**

Still, we ask that students limit off-campus trips to local errands for the next few weeks as we wait for rates of infection to decline further. Being careful now will decrease the likelihood of having to add restrictions back later.

**The restriction for travel outside of the Rome area** (to other parts of Georgia or other states) **remains in place until Wednesday, February 10**, as we monitor COVID-19 trends. We will review this restriction again next week.

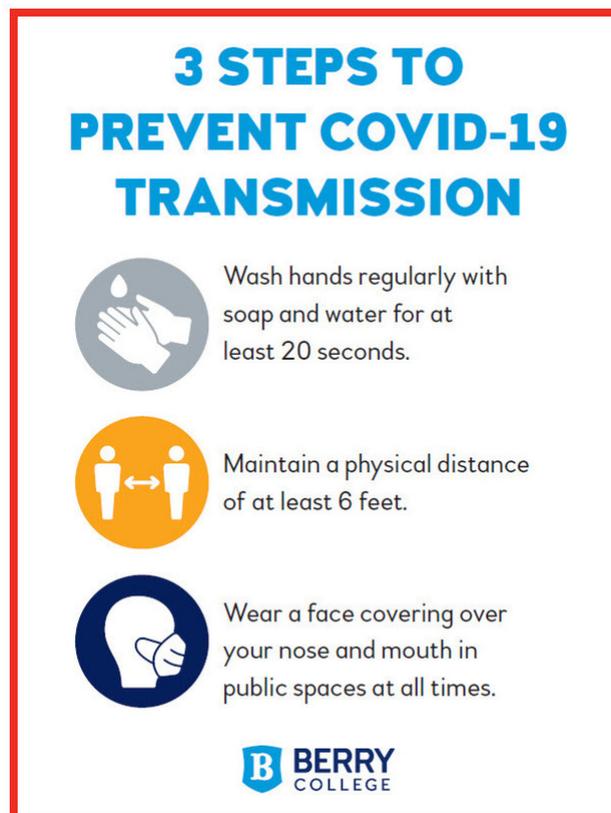
You may request an exception to this policy using the travel request form on Viking Web under the COVID-19 tab.

**Campus remains closed to visitors.** Student visitation within residence halls is allowed. We will continue with a 1-to-1 ratio with a capacity of no more than 4 people in a room/suite at any time.

### Healthy Habits

As we strive to function normally and stay healthy in our residential community, remember what we have learned so far. The majority of student **infections occur through extended contact in confined areas** (cars, residence hall rooms, dining areas, homes) when people are **not wearing masks, or not wearing them properly (covering both nose and mouth).**

We will also use frequent testing this Spring as a means to measure how healthy our community is at any moment. **Testing does not prevent the virus** – it simply tells us how careful we have been with our healthy habits. **Social distancing, masks, fresh air, and clean hands:** that's how we will beat back the pandemic until the vaccines have been widely distributed.



### COVID Testing Protocols

Beginning early February, we will collaborate with the CDC and GA Department of Public Health to provide **frequent, convenient, rapid-testing for all students and staff at Berry.** We will combine this ongoing testing with occasional PCR tests to assess the quality of the rapid-tests.

### Antibody Testing

We will also provide opportunity for the campus community to receive an antibody test to determine whether they have been infected with the virus at some point. This antibody test requires a simple blood sample. If you are interested in being

tested, **please fill out the [form](#)** (which was distributed via email Tuesday) so that we can prepare adequately.

## **COVID BY THE NUMBERS**

### **BERRY:**

Moderate / **Orange** level of risk.

For the week of Jan 21-27: 10 positive cases on campus (8 students, 2 employees).

### **ROME/FLOYD COUNTY:**

High / **Red** level of risk

11.7% positive tests in last 14 days (compared to 15.2% in state of GA).

Positivity rate was 14.3% on Nov. 20 and 10.2 on Aug. 26.

601/100,000 new COVID cases in the last 14 days (compared to 734/100,000 in GA). New case rate was 462/100,000 on Nov. 20 and 462/100,000 on Aug. 26.

114 COVID cases in Floyd and Redmond hospitals (compared to 82 on Nov. 20 and 47 on Aug 26)

## **WEEKEND FUN AND FOOD!**



### **Friday:**

**\*Men's Basketball vs. Hendrix** — Cage Arena @ 6 p.m.

**KCAB: Sip-N-Paint/Sip-N-Play** — Krannert @8pm

Gaming truck, canvas painting and snacks

### **Saturday:**

**Intramural Tennis & Soccer Tennis Tournament** (Register by Thursday on IMLeagues)

**SOLE's hike to the House o'Dreams -- Meet at the Jewel Box, @11am**

**\*Men's Basketball vs. Hendrix — Cage Arena @1pm**

**\*Women's Basketball vs. Hendrix — Cage Arena @4pm**

**KCAB Winter Wonderland — Cage Parking Lot @8pm**

Ice skating rink, mechanical snowboard, Swift & Finch and snacks

Waffle House Food Truck — Behind Krannert @8pm, while supplies last

### **Sunday:**

**\*Women's Basketball vs. Hendrix — Cage Arena @1 pm**

\*Tickets required for entry. Pick up at Campus Info Desk starting Thursday.