



HEALTHY TOGETHER UPDATE

This will be our last communication in 2020 as we embrace the holidays and look forward to the spring semester with anticipation. Thanks again to our whole community – faculty, staff and students—for your patience and goodwill as we worked hard to stay healthy together this fall.

Given what we know today, we must plan for the start in January to be hard. We will need to act deliberately to ensure the health of the campus in the early weeks.

PROTOCOLS for RETURN IN JANUARY

We recognize that students will be arriving at different times depending on their responsibilities. It is important that all students return to campus healthy and free of COVID-19. **Some students are approved to arrive late in December or the early days of January. If you are on this approved list, you will receive information directly from the Dean of Students about testing protocols as you return to campus.**

All students returning to campus on or after January 9th will be required to show a negative PCR test for COVID that was taken within 3-5 days of arrival.

COVID-19 Available Resources:

Be sure to ask for a PCR test when making your testing arrangements.

- Local public health department resources
For example, in Georgia you can access all county and regional resources at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-testing>
- Urgent Care facilities in your area
- Walgreen's and CVS Drug Stores
- Some local physicians

Please plan ahead. **Urgent Care, your local physician, Walgreen's and CVS require a testing appointment made in advance. Test results may take 3-5 days depending on the time of day you take your test and the demand levels at the lab.**

Typically, there is no charge for testing through departments of public health. Urgent Care, Walgreen's, CVS and your local physician will work with you to bill your insurance for your test.

If you are having difficulty in locating a resource in your area, please call the Berry Health and Wellness Center and a staff member will be happy to assist you.

Spring Move-in Schedule

Early returns: Jan. 9-15 – as approved

All other students: Jan. 16-17

Jan. 18: MLK Day with campus events

Jan. 19: First day of classes

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

We will continue to refine our plans for the spring semester in coming weeks. We will resume these weekly updates in January, and we will also offer several virtual Town Halls on Jan. 6-7 to share additional details and answer questions about return to campus, plans for regular testing during the semester, campus mitigation strategies, athletics and other events.

Town Hall Schedule

Wednesday, Jan. 6

2-3 p.m. (ET) faculty

6-7 p.m. (ET) students and parents

Thursday, Jan. 7

2-3 p.m. (ET) staff

6-7 p.m. (ET) students and parents

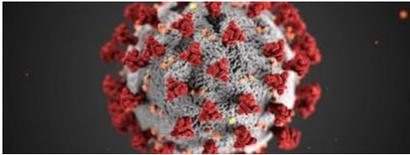


SEASON'S GREETINGS!

We are delighted to share with you the Berry College Music Program's "Musical Christmas Card" with clips of some favorite Christmas tunes performed by our students, ensembles, and artist faculty. Some of these selections were produced by our music business majors.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=P4ytKto5QTw>

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS



Confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Berry College are added to this list when a new positive test is reported. <https://www.berry.edu/healthy-together/confirmed-cases>

COVID BY THE NUMBERS

BERRY:

Moderate / **Orange** level of risk.

In the month of December to date, 1 on-campus student tested positive and 12 employees.

ROME/FLOYD COUNTY:

High / **Red** level of risk

14.9% positive tests in last 14 days (compared to 13.2% in state of GA)

709/100,000 new COVID cases in the last 14 days (compared to 611/100,000 in state of GA and compared to ~400/100,000 in Rome area in mid-November)

129 COVID cases in Floyd and Redmond hospitals (compared to 60-70 in mid-November)