



WE DID IT! HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Please enjoy this special message from President Briggs



HEALTHY TOGETHER UPDATE

As students departed campus before Thanksgiving, 1,550 participated in COVID-19 testing. As we announced earlier, 8 students tested positive on the rapid (BinaxNOW) antigen test. One tested negative on that test, but positive with an antigen test at the health center after developing symptoms. **Samples from all 1,550 students were then sent to the Center for Disease Control for PCR testing, and 40 students tested positive including the 8 plus 1 from the antigen testing.**

Interestingly, the 8 students who tested positive on BinaxNOW also had the highest viral load on the PCR tests (based on the cycle threshold or Ct values from the PCR tests). Thus, the antigen tests are likely to identify students most at risk for transmitting the virus, but do not detect cases with lower viral loads at a single point in time. Researchers at the CDC continue to study this data.

Revised quarantine protocols

In an announcement this week, the Centers for Disease Control updated its requirements for those in quarantine. For those participating in campus life at Berry, **individuals who do not develop symptoms can leave quarantine 7 days after contact with a positive case - if they have not developed symptoms and have a negative test result within 48 hours.** CDC allows the use of rapid antigen

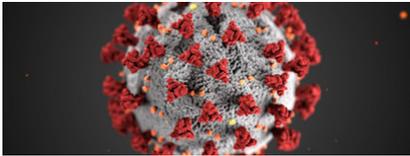
tests such as those available at the Berry Health Center. Continued symptom monitoring and use of masks must continue through day 14.

We will continue to adjust Berry protocols in accordance with CDC and Georgia Department of Public Health guidelines.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- We will provide more information about return to campus testing and protocols later this month and again as we enter 2021.
- Dec. 10 is the Spring tuition payment deadline.
- Our spring move-in will be a staggered schedule like fall move-in. Look for details in our mid-December email about testing prior to your January arrival.
- Don't forget to stay healthy during your break! Please be mindful of your plans the last two weeks (Jan. 4 onward) before returning to campus. We want to see your smiling faces!

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>