

Dear Campus Community,

If you have followed [MCLA's COVID-19 Dashboard](#) since the beginning of the semester you have noticed that confirmed on-campus cases have held steady since January thanks to all of our collective and extensive efforts to keep our campus as safe as possible. While our community has continued to be responsible in following recommended public health protocols we will observe an increase on the dashboard this week, both in on-campus cases and from outside reporting agencies: we have seen three positive cases through our on-campus testing program and two additional positives reported from outside agencies.

We provide this update to you in keeping with our commitment to ongoing and transparent communication and out of an abundance of caution. Please be assured, contact tracers would have been in touch with you if you had close contact with positive individuals and we continue our work with our local public health partners for the latest cases. We ask all members of our community to respect the privacy of individuals affected by COVID-19 so they can focus on their health.

As a reminder, if you have a potential exposure to COVID-19 that would require quarantine, you may be contacted initially by one of our public health partners. If you are contacted either by MCLA or by a Berkshire County public health official, your timely and complete cooperation is essential as we seek to contain infections as quickly as possible.

**Students** experiencing symptoms should contact MCLA Health Services at 413.662.5421. We will begin increased testing, as laid out in our re-opening plan and resident students and commuter students will be receiving details through our COVID-19 Canvas site. Please monitor your MCLA email for additional information.

**Employees** experiencing symptoms should not report to work and contact their primary health care provider, as well as MCLA's HR department. As a reminder, Faculty and Staff testing is available Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. -2 p.m. in the Campus Center Gym. While it is recommended to schedule an appointment, walk-ins are easily accommodated.

Stop the Spread sites continue to operate 7-days a week. Appointments at local locations can be made through the Berkshire Medical Center hotline: 855-BMC-LINK, or 855-262-5465. The hotline is typically open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

An increase in cases has been seen across Berkshire County and in the state over the last couple of weeks as some COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. Despite the additional re-opening measures, it is more crucial than ever that we all abide by social distancing protocols, wear masks at all times while in public, get vaccinated when it is our turn, and exercise our best judgement — to protect ourselves and others. Please remember that a negative test is a snapshot in time, not a prediction or guarantee for the future.

Please continue to reference MCLA's COVID-19 page for the latest information and updates and contact our COVID-19 hotline 413-662-5550 with questions.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued vigilance,

Gina

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