

February 24, 2021

Dear Members of the Keystone Community:

Now that we are several weeks into our spring semester, I would like to take this opportunity to provide an important update on the protocols and procedures we continue to employ to keep our campus community as safe as possible during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

As more people in our nation receive vaccinations, we look forward to the day where we can resume a more normal day-to-day routine. Until that time comes, it is critical that we continue to follow those health and safety protocols that we have been for the past year: mask-wearing, social distancing, hand-washing, etc. In fact, even individuals who have received COVID-19 vaccinations should continue to follow these critical steps.

Beginning Monday, March 1, 2021, we will introduce an important new safety procedure. In order to more closely monitor our student populations with a higher likelihood of community spread and to maintain compliance with the Colonial States Athletic Conference protocols for a return to competition later this spring, Keystone College will require resident students and in-season student athletes to participate in surveillance COVID-19 testing.

To accomplish this objective, Keystone will use rapid test kits recently received from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Each week, 25 percent of resident students and 25 percent of in-season student-athletes will be selected for testing and be assigned a time to complete a rapid test under the direction of the College's athletic training staff and Geisinger's Dr. Sheng-Ying (Margaret) Lo, Ph.D. The rapid tests take approximately 15 minutes to generate results. Within a four-week period, 100 percent of student athletes in men's and women's lacrosse, track and field, baseball and softball will be tested. Resident students will receive further instructions from the Office of Residence Life and impacted athletes will receive further instruction from their respective coaches regarding testing dates and locations.

Again, to emphasize, we are conducting this surveillance testing to monitor those student populations with a higher rate of possible community spread. Our goal is to continue to limit the amount of positive COVID cases in our college community during the remainder of the semester.

We hope the coming of spring will continue to bring better news for all as more people become vaccinated locally and elsewhere. Please, continue to take the necessary steps to stay safe and healthy. Thank you all for your tremendous efforts during this challenging time. You continue to demonstrate our true Keystone spirit each and every day.

Sincerely,

Tracy L. Brundage, Ph.D.
President