



The Bark -- VPSL Column | October 16, 2020

Happy Friday, students!

With November fast approaching, I want to commend you for your ongoing commitment to your health and the health of our community so far this semester. We're doing well in the aggregate, with some room for improvement.

Here's the latest on our COVID-19 testing results and related efforts:

- [COVID-19 cases](#): As of yesterday, we have had only one positive COVID-19 test out of the 1,993 tests we've conducted on campus--and none since August.
- [Effluent testing results](#): Great news! Results returned on October 14 from wastewater samples pulled on October 9 showed no presence of coronavirus in effluence from residence halls. This was the third set of all negative results in a row.
- **Testing for students living off-campus**: Last week, we began COVID-testing approximately half of our students who are living off-campus. This testing was done to assess what might be unfolding with our off-campus students. All 99 tests conducted came back negative. Way to be, off-campus Pios!
- **COVID Risk Assessment Survey**: To better understand how CAS students are feeling about COVID-19 prevention practices, we fielded our first monthly survey. Thanks to the more

than 500 students who took the time to complete the brief survey. Here are some key findings:

- The symptom tracker is causing some confusion. About half of respondents didn't know about the form, while others were unclear when or how often to complete the form. Melissa Osmond from Health Promotion and Wellness sent an email this morning about the reporting form, which clarifies our expectations. Please take a moment to read and absorb that message.
- While most students are complying with facemask requirements and other risk-mitigation practices, especially in the classroom (89%), students reported diminishing compliance in residential spaces and other common spaces (56-59%). And about a third of students reported observing people in residence halls other than their own. As always, use your face coverings, practice good hygiene, maintain your social distance, and monitor yourself for symptoms. Don't visit residence halls other than your own, and definitely don't use restrooms in other halls.
- **Social spaces:** It's great to see students using the social spaces we've opened up in the last couple of weeks. A reminder: As with all indoor activities, participants are expected to observe documented occupancy requirements and maintain appropriate social distancing measures: wearing masks, staying six feet apart, etc. All participants are required to sanitize the equipment before and after use. We ask that residents using the classrooms sign in and out of each space for potential contact tracing.

Have a safe weekend. And, as always, WeB4Me@LC.

Sincerely,

Robin H. Holmes-Sullivan
Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students

Spring Semester Academic and Residential Options and Calendar

Dear Students,

This week, you received an email regarding options for the Spring 2021 semester. We include that information below. Let us know if you have questions.

In addition, we've worked with offices around campus, including ASLC, to make some changes to the Spring 2021 Academic Calendar. The start (January 19) and end (May 6) dates are the same, but Spring Break has been split into separate, smaller breaks through the semester (February 25 and 26; March 22 and 23). We've also added an extra reading day before finals. See the changes on [the official academic calendar](#) or [here on this page](#).

Advising for spring semester course registration will begin soon, and we want to give you some information about your options for living and learning at LC this spring. We recognize that students have different living situations, health needs, and learning styles, so we've made it possible to choose whether to access all of your classes from campus or from a remote location. It does take time for us to plan and coordinate those options, and that's why we're asking you now to let us know if you are going to change where you live or how you access classes in the spring.

If you plan to access classes in the spring the same way you did in the fall, and if you have already confirmed your living arrangements for spring, you don't need to do anything more.

If you are thinking about making a change for spring, please read carefully the following options and then let us know by the relevant deadline that you want to make a change. Use [this form](#) to do so.

Your Options for Spring 2021

Option 1: Take courses on campus, live on campus.

You can take in-person-only, hybrid, or online courses. In-person-only and hybrid courses require attendance for in-person components of the class.

Option 2: Take courses on campus, live off campus.

You can take in-person-only, hybrid, or online courses. In-person-only and hybrid courses require attendance for in-person components of the class.

Option 3: Take all courses remotely, and stay completely off campus.

You can take all of your courses remotely all semester long, including hybrid courses, if you agree not to come to campus for any reason. You should not sign up for any courses that are designated "in person only."

Option 4: Appeal to take all courses remotely but retain some limited essential access to campus.

There are a few students who have a health reason to not take any classes in person but also some other compelling reason (e.g., financial need, housing or food insecurity, reliance on campus health services for health care) that warrants some access to campus. Please note that we have not approved appeals based on convenience or transportation or requests to take some hybrid classes remotely and others in person.

Note: Through your course registration, you can select courses that are in-person-only, hybrid, or online. However, it is not possible to ask to attend some of your hybrid courses in person and other hybrid courses remotely. Tracking that level of complexity would make it too difficult to achieve important goals such as de-densifying the campus, carrying out rapid and efficient testing and contact tracing, and planning cohorts that make in-person instruction possible.

Deadlines

- If you live on campus and wish to move off campus, or if you live off campus and wish to move on campus, you must complete this form to notify Campus Living by Wednesday, **October 28**. This allows time to allocate rooms and match roommates.

- If you are not changing where you live, but you wish to change whether you access classes remotely or in-person, you must complete this form by Thursday, November 19. Knowing your choice allows us to adjust classroom assignments and plan cohorts for hybrid courses.
- If you choose option 4, your appeal will be reviewed by a committee. If your appeal is not approved, we want to make sure you have time to make another choice, so the deadline for selecting this option is Wednesday, **October 21**.

Please pay close attention to these deadlines. If you miss the deadline for your preferred option, or you change your mind later, we will do our best to help, but we cannot guarantee your option.

Questions?

If you have questions about housing, please contact Campus Living (living@lclark.edu). For information about taking courses in-person or remotely, contact the CAS Dean's Office (casdean@lclark.edu).

Click [HERE](#) to access the form for letting us know that you will be making a change in the spring.