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## Fwd: COVID Update - moving into Phase II

1 message

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Wed, Feb 17, 2021 at 2:01 PM

From: **Shannon Dycus** <[shannon.dycus@emu.edu](mailto:shannon.dycus@emu.edu)>  
Date: Wed, Feb 17, 2021 at 1:58 PM  
Subject: COVID Update - moving into Phase II  
To: <[harrisonburg-students@emu.edu](mailto:harrisonburg-students@emu.edu)>

Royals, Our roughly 10-day surge is now behind us, with most returned from quarantine and isolation.  
<insert deep breath>

As we move into our phased return (see information about Phase 2 below) and continue through this semester, our Health Services team wants to prioritize our ongoing awareness as a community working together to mitigate the impact of COVID among us.

Their collected data also lead to some helpful generalizations about the recent surge:

1. Since January 1, we have responded to 102 positive cases, with 69 of those occurring during the two weeks between January 25 and February 7. In addition to the positive cases, which required isolation, an additional 55 students required quarantine after contact tracing. *These cases are traced to informal gatherings in residence halls, fitness center use, shared dining and athletic activity.*
2. Negative results, from move-in and/or routine athletic testing, created a false sense of safety. While testing is informative, we cannot rely on testing alone.
3. Protocols related to masking, distancing and sanitizing remain as our best practices.
4. Students and staff should self-assess each day, report symptoms (even mild symptoms) on the Symptoms Tracker, and call the COVID hotline if instructed. **DO NOT SELF-DIAGNOSE.** COVID can present like a common cold, a sinus infection, fatigue, etc.
5. Our campus resources are prepared for immediate and efficient response to symptoms and positivity. Continued use of the COVID hotline for students, faculty and staff helps us maintain community health.
6. Carefully following quarantine and isolation protocols is essential to mitigate the spread of the virus. In our recent surge of positive cases, a number of persons placed in quarantine became symptomatic and tested positive before their quarantine was over.

These generalizations and ongoing analysis of data have helped EMU Health Services to provide recommendations for updates to our plans and protocols as we continue through the spring semester.

### **PHASE 2**

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Phase 2: Feb. 22-28</b>           |   |
| <b>Academic classes</b>              | Hyflex model continues  |
| <b>Student programs</b>              | CAC & Rec Sports outdoor (10 person max)<br>Clubs/Orgs continue to host virtual meetings.<br>(No spectators at home athletics competitions.)  |
| <b>Informal gatherings</b>           | Gather in groups of 10 persons only; Socialize in household groups.   |
| <b>Caf, Den &amp; Common Grounds</b> | Dine-In for Caf and Den<br>Common Grounds take-out<br><i>*CG can be used for study</i>  |
| <b>Fitness Center</b>                | Closed  |
| <b>Library</b>                       | Open to all students  |
| <b>Athletics</b>                     | No spectators at home competitions.<br><br>NCAA and other return-to-play protocols for athletes recovered from COVID are in place.<br><br>Outdoor, intermediate spring sports teams begin practicing.<br><br>Indoor intermediate-risk sports begin practicing.<br><br>Enhanced practice guidelines continue |

We appreciate all the ways you all are paying attention to the changes needed and adapting your behaviors for the health of one another. I hope yesterdays Pause Day gave some room for breathing. Keep working hard, and keep making space for pauses and deep breaths.

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**Dean of Students**  
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