



January 11, 2021

Dear Heidelberg Students:

As more students return to campus after confirming their negative COVID-19 test (at no cost to students), we look forward to the full return of most students this coming weekend. Dean of Student Affairs Chris Abrams reports that we have had only 6 positive results out of the first 523 tests (also 2 inconclusive and 3 invalid tests). There are about 125 students on campus now and those who tested positive will return to campus after their quarantine time at home. Our 1.1% positivity rate compares very favorably to the Ohio 7-day running positivity rate of 14.0% now.

Come back healthy, everyone, so we can start the spring semester successfully together next week!

Please remember that today is the deadline for all students to choose either Residential Learning or Remote Learning for this term. We are pleased to continue offering these alternative plans for all students.

I am delighted to report that the France Hall restoration and renovation work is progressing successfully now. The unexpected building issues are being addressed. We anticipate completion by the end of February with student move-in options to be determined.

Finally, I want to express how much I appreciated the opportunity to greet the women's and men's basketball teams at different times in Seiberling Gym last week. Those approximately 45 student-athletes are on campus practicing (and being tested per NCAA standards) for the start of their abbreviated winter sport schedules in less than two weeks. It was great to chat briefly with Head Women's Coach Rachel Ferri and Head Men's Coach Andy Bucheit. It was absolutely awesome to see all of the students and coaches and to say hello!

Please know how much the Heidelberg faculty and staff have missed engaging with all students in all ways on campus since last March. We want "normal" university life back too.

Let us launch our new expectations and unwavering dreams as one united community with *MLK, Jr. Day ON!* in one week.

Respectfully,

Rob Huntington
President