



November 16, 2020

Dear Heidelberg Students:

Congratulations to everyone ... only 4 more days until Thanksgiving Break!

Against all of the ongoing COVID-19 world challenges surrounding the Berg campus, and despite some setbacks that made us stumble from time to time this semester, you have succeeded in having as much of a Student Prince residential experience as pandemically possible this fall. That is outstanding! With classes, research projects, senior recitals, athletics, music, theatre, clubs, internships, field placements, jobs, applications, and fun with friends, you still have this final full week in hand. Engage all of it energetically and safely!

For the second time, Heidelberg took advantage of free Ohio National Guard COVID PCR testing last Thursday. We had 323 students and 222 faculty/staff/others tested. Excellent turnout of 545! With 34 test results still pending and 3 test results inconclusive, we have zero confirmed positives reported so far from this surveillance testing round. Our total cumulative positivity rate of 4.1% based on about 2,500 COVID tests this term will likely decrease. Our campus is far below the current 7-day running positivity rate in Ohio (12.5%) and surrounding states. As an educational community, we have taken care of ourselves and each other.

When you go home at the end of this week, please rejoice in being with your family ... but please take careful precautions against the COVID fire raging everywhere.

After two weeks of planned online classes following Thanksgiving, your final exams and papers will conclude on December 17th. Good luck! Then more holidays with your families.

Our plan is to reopen residentially (again with a remote learning option) with *MLK, Jr. Day ON!* on January 18, 2021. Students can return to campus on Sunday, January 17th.

Our plan is for winter sports student-athletes to return ahead of that date on January 3, 2021.

All returning students will be required to confirm a "negative" COVID test right before returning to campus. We will announce that test plan and explain the protocol in the coming weeks.

We made it through the fall semester. We will make it through the spring semester. Always together.

My best wishes finishing everything strong and healthy this week!

Thank you very much.

Respectfully,

Rob Huntington
President