



August 12, 2020

Dear Heidelberg Students,

As you prepare to arrive on campus next week, I want to provide you with an update on Heidelberg's plans for mandatory COVID-19 testing as you return. Because the PCR test is considered the "gold standard" test, because there became too many questions about the reliability of rapid tests for those who are asymptomatic, and because the availability of rapid tests had become a concern, we are modifying our protocol – previously announced as a rapid test. We will now administer PCR nasopharyngeal viral tests to all students as they arrive, as well as to all faculty and staff.

The testing protocol is the same, including all students and guests being masked and physical distancing. The positive news is that PCR tests provide a definitive diagnosis; we will not have to worry about follow-up testing which would have been required for anyone who tested positive on the "rapid test." On the flip side, though, our PCR test results will take 3-6 days to process.

Based on new information – and in consultation with our public health partners from the Seneca County General Health District and Mercy Health Tiffin Hospital – we are announcing the following protocols for Fall Semester move-in:

All students will receive a PCR test upon arrival on campus (at no cost to you).

- When you arrive for testing (the first stop of the day), we ask you to bring with you this completed consent form as part of the testing registration process.
- Following the completion of your test, which will be conducted first when each student arrives on campus in Seiberling Gymnasium, you will go through check-in located in Saurwein Health & Wellness Center (for upperclassmen what in the past was called verification) and move your belongings into your residence hall room. For physical distancing, we request no more than two people enter your residence hall to assist you with move-in. Unfortunately, due to testing, we will not have students available to assist with the move-in process.
- Once you are moved in, you will be asked to self-quarantine in your room or, if you wish, back at your home, while you await the results of your PCR test.
- Details are still being worked out for how meals will be provided but be assured all students on campus will have access to meals through Parkhurst Dining.

- Because we are asking all students to quarantine until test results are received, the first week of classes, August 24-August 28, will be delivered remotely. Each faculty member will approach remote teaching differently; some may have the entire class log on to Zoom sessions for synchronous meetings, while others will deliver the first week of courses asynchronously. Your professors will share their remote teaching plans with you before the first day of classes. Pending the timeline of test results, it may be necessary to continue remote delivery into week two of classes. Our goal is to return to the scheduled modality, available on OASIS, as soon as possible.

- Due to this change, the deadline for requesting the Remote Learning Only Option #2 has been extended until noon Monday, August 17. Use this [form](#) to select the Remote Learning Only option for the fall semester.

- If you test positive, you will be required to isolate until cleared by county health officials. If your roommate or suitemate tests positive, county health officials and/or campus health professionals will talk with you to determine the amount of time you spent in close proximity to that person to determine whether you need to self-quarantine, including whether you were wearing masks and maintaining physical distancing. One of the current metrics used is contact within 6 feet for 10-15 minutes or more as a threshold to be included in a quarantine group. The safety measures we are requiring of students of physical distancing and mask-wearing should keep additional quarantining at a minimum. If it is determined that you need to quarantine, that could last for 14 days. If this is the case, you may want to consider returning to your permanent residence. If this is not feasible, Heidelberg will have temporary quarantine housing available for you.

For testing to be effective in helping us mitigate and/or manage any potential spread of COVID-19 on our campus, you must complete the PCR test at Heidelberg to be able to attend classes. Results from testing at other locations will not be accepted.

- As always, the health and well-being of everyone on campus is our top priority. To help support this goal, we will also observe the following protocols throughout the semester:

All students, faculty and staff are required to complete a daily self-assessment for [COVID-19 symptoms](#) that include the following:

- Taking your temperature with a thermometer and monitoring for a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher.
- Assessing for coughing, difficulty breathing or other COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students should use this [self-evaluation form](#).
- Staff and faculty should use this [self-evaluation form](#).

If you develop symptoms, you should contact Stoner Health & Counseling Center (419-448-2041) and talk with someone about your symptoms and next steps for your care.

Based on the modifications being announced today, assigned times for check-in may need to be changed. Please watch for a follow-up email from Student Affairs regarding how to change your sign-up time to check in and move into your residence hall.

We will need your commitment to these protocols to ensure a great, safe and healthy living and learning experience for everyone in the Heidelberg family. With that goal in mind, all students, faculty, and staff will sign the Heidelberg Pledge of Health & Safety when they arrive on campus." I look forward to seeing you next week.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Abrams  
Dean of Student Affairs

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419-448-2058