

To: Portland and McMinnville Students  
From: Patricia Haddeland and Matthew Hiller  
Date: Wednesday, December 22, 2021

Hello Wildcats,

I hope you are enjoying your break and recharging for the New Year. We face ongoing challenges with COVID-19, even as we welcome in 2022, it's been a long journey and we aren't done yet. If you are keeping up with the news, you know the Omicron variant of the virus is highly contagious, even for people who have been vaccinated. We are still learning about this new variant, including how severe the associated illness is, but we do know having received the COVID vaccine and getting the booster provides the best protection against serious illness, hospitalization, and death. I strongly encourage you to get vaccinated during the Winter Break and if you have had your original dose(s) of vaccine, please get your booster. 94% of all McMinnville students and 98% of all Portland students are fully vaccinated. This has helped the university keep cases on our campus low.

I believe we all want to keep our campus as safe as we can for the welfare of our community and to allow for as much normal interaction as possible when we return. In order for that to happen, it's important to identify who has the virus and for ill people to avoid contact with others. If you become ill with a cold-like illness, such as fever, cough, headache, body aches, nasal congestion, or loss of taste or smell or you know you've been exposed to COVID, please get tested for COVID. If you are ill, please seek the advice of a health care provider and avoid returning to campus until you have been cleared to do so. If your return to campus is delayed due to illness, a COVID exposure, or a positive COVID test please contact the Student Health Center [shlt@linfield.edu](mailto:shlt@linfield.edu) on the McMinnville Campus and Matthew Hiller [mhiller@linfield.edu](mailto:mhiller@linfield.edu) on the Portland Campus.

Thanks for doing your part to help keep the Linfield community safe and healthy.