

From: Debbie Harmon Ferry on behalf of Miles Davis

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 11:57 AM

To: All McMinnville Employees, McMinnville Students, Portland Employees

Subject: Message from President Miles K. Davis

To the Linfield community,

There are many, many people who deserve thanks for helping students during our four-day pause of in-person activities on the McMinnville campus. Our staff of counselors and healthcare providers continued to work closely with off-campus authorities, and to help students and their families. Many employees continued to come to campus in-person to maintain services through the weekend and beyond, and faculty was able to quickly adjust to two days of remote courses again. Truly, I'm grateful to everyone for their diligent efforts and long hours.

I am also writing you today, though, because I am pleased to announce that the pause on McMinnville-campus activities will end after today. Normal activities — at least what we have come to call “normal” — will resume as of Wednesday, February 3. Employees should report back to their regular duties and offices, and students should return to in-person classes.

The caveat, of course, is that normal activities can return only under the conditions that have been established for the semester. We all still need to wear masks, socially distance, practice extreme caution, follow all protocols inside the classroom and out, and – of course – wash our hands regularly with soap and water.

Because of your diligence in following our safety and health protocols, last week's rise in cases was mostly confined to one residence hall and was not a campus-wide outbreak. The Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center has been working closely with our local and state health authorities, who have called Linfield a model for how other universities should be handling and communicating about the pandemic. By reducing in-person activities over the last four days, we have slowed the rate of transmission and minimized our overall campus risk.

Hewitt Hall residents will be re-tested Friday morning, and the building-specific quarantine will be lifted pending those results. Campus-wide, our quarantine and isolation spaces remain at 37% occupancy. While McMinnville reported 11 positive cases among its faculty, staff and students last week, it is worth stating again that this represents less than 1% of our total McMinnville population.

As Erik Stenehjem, Linfield's director of Environmental Safety and Health, emphasized in yesterday's edition of *Linfield Ahead*, the university prepared for situations like this and our processes are working. In the interest of managing expectations, he also pointed out that we will most likely see other clusters of cases before the semester ends. Statewide, however, the number of cases and hospitalizations is falling fast, people are increasingly getting vaccinated and we can see light at the end of the tunnel.

Our future this semester depends on the commitment each of us makes to being “Wild for our Health.” Thank you for your agility and resiliency, and for doing everything you can to protect yourself and those around you.

Be well and be blessed.