General Reminders
The Thanksgiving holiday is a period for the entire campus community to rest, recharge, and get ready for the home stretch of the semester. There is much to be thankful for. We want to remind the entire community to celebrate their Thanksgiving holiday safely; wear a mask if traveling or socializing in crowded locations, keep activities to those in your "bubble," remember to wash your hands, and stay home if you are not feeling well.

Health Services will be available Monday, November 22 and Tuesday, November 23 for any faculty, staff, or student who would like a surveillance test before leaving campus or prior to traveling for the holiday.

Weekly surveillance testing will be suspended effective Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. and resume on Monday, November 29, 2021.

Thanksgiving Break
Re-entry Surveillance Testing
All faculty, staff, or students who are partially vaccinated or exempted/unvaccinated will be required to have re-entry testing on Monday, November 29, 2021. Re-entry testing is available free of charge in Health Services and will be available from 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Policy Updates
Classroom Etiquette—Eating and Drinking in Class
As a reminder, there is no eating allowed in classrooms. Students are permitted to have their masks down for brief periods to take sips of water or a drink during their classes. For any student requiring a more extensive nourishment break, they should excuse themselves from class, briefly attend to their nourishment needs, and quietly return to class.

Student-Athletes and Mask Policy
WNE participates in the Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC) Division III athletic events. As such, our student-athlete policies are aligned with CCC policies. Important noteworthy points are:

- Vaccinated student-athletes and officials are NOT required to be masked when competing or participating in an indoor event.
- Unvaccinated student-athletes and officials ARE required to be masked when competing or participating in an indoor event.
- All other student-athletes, recreational athletes, coaching staff, and spectators are expected to adhere to WNE's mask policy at all times.

For risk mitigation related to the CCC policy, all WNE competitive student-athletes are tested twice a week during their competition season. This testing cycle is closely monitored by the Department of Athletics and Health Services’ leadership teams.
Library Study Space
Students using the very small individual study spaces located in D’Amour Library are NOT required to wear a mask when using the area. Students are expected to adhere to the mask policy if the room is being used for work beyond single-occupancy, such as tutoring or small group work.

COVID-19 Virus Transmission Levels
Statewide Transmission Levels
A review of statewide data indicates that Massachusetts is seeing a slight uptick in cases, in addition to a bump in statewide positivity rates. However, hospitalizations and mortality rates continue to drop. Massachusetts Interactive COVID-19 Dashboard

Community Levels
CDC Data Tracker reports that transmission rates across Hampden County remain HIGH.

The positivity rate for Hampden County is currently 4.04%, and vaccines have increased to 67.7%.

WNE Campus Levels
Positive cases reported by WNE remain low, although slightly higher last week. We’re keeping a close eye on these trends. There are no reported issues with isolation or quarantine housing. WNE COVID-19 Dashboard.

If you have questions or concerns about this weekly update, contact Health Services at Healthservices@wne.edu or 413-782-1211.

Respectfully,
Basil A. Stewart
Vice President for Finance and Administration
Chair, Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT)

Kathleen M. Noone
Director, Center for Health & Wellness