



Dear Students, Faculty and Staff–

As we prepare for the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester, we are evaluating daily public health conditions as well as our own COVID-19 safety protocols. While we are pleased that our community has a vaccination compliance rate of over 90 percent, we are aware that the Delta variant is causing increased breakthrough infections.

Today we learned of eight positive COVID-19 cases among members of an athletic team that moved onto campus early for pre-season activities. Those individuals who tested positive have been placed in isolation, and the remainder of the team is quarantining as an additional precaution. Because of the regular testing we are conducting for athletes and other students moving in early, we were able to identify and isolate these cases immediately. At this time, this cluster appears to be contained to one group based on testing of all early arrivals on campus.

While we remain confident in the safety measures we have in place, **these positive cases underscore the importance of remaining vigilant in practicing behaviors that reduce exposure and transmission – especially monitoring symptoms.** In the Spring 2021 semester, we as a College community were successful in keeping infection rates very low on campus. This was in large part due to students, faculty and staff adhering to best practices for identifying and reporting symptoms, complying with mask requirements, being mindful of good hygiene and sanitizing, and participating in regular COVID-19 testing.

Early next week, we will communicate specific details about additional protocols that the College will put in place prior to the beginning of the semester. These will include a return to daily health checks for all members of the community within CoVerified, required CoVerified “green screens” to enter classes, increased availability of testing hours to facilitate student pre-testing before move-in weekend, specific policies related to visitors and guests, guidelines for in-person meetings, and a renewed “Halo’s Pledge.”

The success of the Fall 2021 semester will depend on every student, faculty and staff member taking seriously their responsibility as a member of the Emmanuel College community. We look forward to working together to ensure that our campus remains a safe and healthy environment for living and learning.

–The Emmanuel*Forward* Team