Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

I write with an update on our response to the recent rise in positive cases at Centre College. Let me say first of all that as of now we intend to remain on campus.

The good news is that of the remaining portion of the 25 percent of our students tested earlier in the week, we saw no additional positive results; in short, we had seven (7) positive cases out of 277 tests, with a positivity rate of 2.53 percent.

As you know, we are in the process of testing the additional 75 percent of on-campus students, a process that began last night (Tuesday) and continues today. We hope to have results soon. All of this information, of course, is added to our COVID-19 dashboard on a regular basis as numbers are confirmed.

I cannot emphasize enough how important it is that we double down on all of the health precautions we must abide by on a daily basis to stem this tide.

Sadly, what the events of this week illustrate is how fine a line we all walk during a world pandemic. In particular, I’d note that based on what we know about the virus at Centre, we must all continue consistently to wear masks; we can’t be in close contact with others inside offices, residence halls, cars, and other small indoor spaces; and students must avoid leaving campus and coming into contact with the virus. I would also note that when eating, meeting, and studying together, we all need to be very careful to keep socially distanced, only removing our masks for the moments we are eating and drinking.

Regarding isolation and quarantine, we are following all state and federal guidelines for health and safety. I am particularly grateful for the quick work of Kathy Jones, Kathe Andrews, and Jamey Gay to begin this process immediately when we first learned about this news yesterday afternoon.

The dashboard lists all of the isolation and quarantine information as well, and you will soon see that the seven new positive cases resulted in 96 students needing to be quarantined, along with six (6) members of our staff. The quarantine numbers are large because a few of the positive cases involved student-athletes and state health mandates and guidelines require that...
other team members be quarantined if a certain number of teammates test positive. These are CDC guidelines intended to provide an abundance of caution, which we must follow.

I remain confident that we as a community are a determined and resilient campus focused on and committed to caring for one another.

Please look for additional updates as more information becomes available.

Sincerely,
Milton