March 9, 2021 – Campuswide email

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

I’m writing with an important campus update. The past week has seen the highest number of positive cases among our students, with 17 reported over the last seven days. Many of these cases are the result of social gatherings over the weekend. We must take these developments very seriously. Further increases may put in serious jeopardy our ability to continue in-person learning and living at Centre this spring. I would add that we are now aware of the presence of five cases of the B.1.1.7 variant in Kentucky, so we cannot let our guard down.

In the fall semester we also saw a spike in cases, and we took swift action and immediately tested 100 percent of students in response. After discussion this morning with our COVID-19 Task Force, we will follow the same protocol this time. While half of our students are already scheduled to be tested this week, we will test the remaining 50 percent over the next three days. Kendrick Durham will provide sign-up information in a separate email. In addition, student testing will continue at 100 percent each week until further notice.

Since faculty and staff have maintained a zero positivity rate for many weeks, we will remain at 25 percent testing per week for this group, unless these numbers change as well.

We must make smart choices about how we deal with this dangerous disease. Please keep in mind what is at stake in this battle and do everything you can to assure that you keep yourself and others safe on campus.

I close by thanking our student health staff and contact tracing team for the heroic job they are doing to deal with this very unfortunate situation.

Sincerely,
Milton