



Whitman Today

Thursday, February 11, 2021

COVID-19 at Whitman

Anderson Hall Quarantine

As you were made aware in an email last night from Peter Harvey, chair of the Coronavirus Task Force, nine positive COVID-19 cases were detected yesterday in students living at Anderson Hall. In consultation with our epidemiologist, we decided the most efficient way to stop the spread of COVID-19 on our campus was to quarantine all students who live in Anderson.

For the duration of this quarantine, all students in Anderson are restricted to their residence hall. They will move to remote learning, will have food delivered by Bon Appetit, and will not be going to Cleveland Commons or other buildings on campus.

We will be repeatedly testing the quarantined students to identify any new positive cases and have begun contact tracing to identify and follow up with close contacts. **If you have followed physical distancing and masking protocols, it is unlikely that you would have had close contact.** Close contact is defined by the CDC as someone who was within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from two days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

This situation highlights the importance of our COVID protocols. All of us must continue to social distance, wear masks, complete your daily wellness check, avoid gathering in groups and participate in surveillance testing.

We will continue to communicate with the campus community as this situation evolves.

Everbridge Login Issues

Additionally, we are aware that some people are currently unable to log in to the Everbridge app. If you are in this situation, you should still be able to complete your wellness check via email today. The wellness check email should have arrived in your inbox at approximately 3 a.m. today. Once you have completed the wellness check, you will receive a badge via email and a confirmation text. You can then show either of these to indicate that you are approved to be on campus. We are looking into this issue and will let you know when we have further details.

Q: What does it mean that Whitman's COVID-19 surveillance testing is "pool testing"?

A: Pooling—sometimes referred to as pool testing or pooled testing—means combining respiratory samples from several people and conducting one laboratory test on the combined pool of samples to detect SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Pooling allows laboratories to test more samples with fewer testing materials. If a pooled test result is negative, then all the samples can be presumed negative with the single test. If the pooled test result is positive, each of the samples in the pool will need to be tested individually to determine which samples are positive. [Learn more on the CDC website.](#)

Announcements



2019 residents of La Casa Hispana Interest House

Learn About the Interest House Community

Are you looking for housing next semester that is cozy, friendly and thrives on togetherness? Then you should consider applying to the Interest House Community (IHC)! The IHC offers the opportunity to build a close-knit community with peers that share common interests, ranging from language learning to art to community involvement. IHC houses also put on programs throughout the semester that are open to all of campus, giving members of the house a chance to share their passions. Applications to live in the Interest Houses are open to rising sophomores and up and will be available Mar. 2. [Sign up for the Friends of the IHC listerv](#) for more information and events news or each out to the IHC RD, Emma Lungren, at lungreer@whitman.edu with any questions.

Noteworthy

Jackson Signs Letter on First Amendment

Associate Professor of Politics Jack Jackson has joined 143 other constitutional lawyers and scholars from across the political spectrum in signing an [open letter](#) regarding impeachment and the First Amendment.

Submit News of a Personal or Professional Achievement

Happening Today

- 2:30 p.m. [Washington State Legislature Career Trek](#)
Learn about what it's like for a student to work for the state legislature and how you can find opportunities to intern, volunteer or build a career that leads to the political career path. View the panelists and RSVP in [Handshake](#).
- 4 p.m. [The Work of Rick Martinez](#)
Join Emily Somoskey, Daniel Forbes and Kynde Kiefel in a discussion honoring the work and life of the amazing Rick Martinez, an important educator and artist in the Whitman Community. "Voyages: A Rick Martinez Retrospective" is currently on display in the Sheehan Gallery to see in person Tuesday–Friday, 12–5 p.m. or Saturday and Sunday, 12–4 p.m. or take a [virtual tour](#).
- 4:30 p.m. [Finding Your Future at a Nonprofit](#)
Hear from three accomplished nonprofit professionals about how they entered the field. They will discuss their insights on how college students can develop skills for the field, stand out to hiring managers, and think about what role they wish to pursue in the nonprofit world.

Whitman Events Calendar

Have a virtual event you'd like to share with campus? Email the details to whitmantoday@whitman.edu.

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday–Friday to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. All times are listed in Pacific Standard Time.

Submissions are welcome! If you have a professional or personal accomplishment to celebrate, an event to publicize or other content to share with the Whitman community, email whitmantoday@whitman.edu. Submissions should be 125 words or less. The deadline for submissions is noon for the following day's newsletter, though submissions may be held for a later date according to space and editorial needs.

Previous issues of Whitman Today are [archived on our website](#).

