



# Whitman Today

Friday, February 12, 2021

## Update on Anderson Hall Quarantine

As a result of Wednesday's positive COVID cases, the rest of the students living in Anderson Hall were tested on Thursday. From that testing, two new students received positive results. In addition, a student in Anderson tested positive via a Tuesday sample from the college's pooled surveillance testing. All of Tuesday's surveillance test results are now complete. The students who received positive tests have been moved to isolation housing outside of Anderson. So far, students who have tested positive have been asymptomatic or have displayed mild symptoms such as stuffy noses and sore throats.

Because of these additional positive results, all Anderson residents will continue to quarantine. They will undergo another round of COVID testing on Saturday and again on Monday to make sure we catch any asymptomatic cases.

The students who tested positive have gone through the contact tracing process and have identified close contacts. If you believe you were in close contact with a student who you know tested positive, you can reach out to the health center at (509-527-5295). A close contact is defined by 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.

## Q: Are academic buildings open on the weekend for study space?

A: Many campus buildings are open with swipe access on the weekend for study space. Following is the weekend building schedule:

- Fouts, Harper Joy, Maxey, Olin, Hall of Music: Saturday and Sunday, 7:30 a.m.–10 p.m.
- Hall of Science: Saturday and Sunday, 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Hunter Conservatory: Sunday, 3:45–5:15 p.m. for printing pick-up only
- Library: Saturday, noon–7 p.m. and Sunday, noon–10 p.m.
- Reid: Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.–10 p.m.
- GAC: Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. for food pantry and clothing closet access only

If you enter a campus building on the weekend, please do not move furniture in study spaces or classrooms. Also, there are no janitorial services scheduled on the weekend so you should be extra diligent about using available cleaning products on public space furniture and equipment.

## Announcements

### Whitman Offices Closed for Presidents Day

Monday, Feb. 15 is Presidents Day. Whitman's administrative offices will be closed in observance and will return to regular scheduled hours on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

### Academic Buildings Office Access

The main offices in the academic buildings are currently locked even during office hours; the offices can only hold a small number of people, so they are kept locked to ensure limited access. However, division assistants are delighted to help you. The phone number of the office is posted on the door. If you need help (for example directions or advice), please feel free to call that number. The division assistants are happy to talk to you on the phone and perhaps even wave at you through the glass.



### Recycling in Walla Walla

As of Jan. 1 the City of Walla Walla has temporarily eliminated all plastics from its list of acceptable recyclables. The decision is part of the city's recycling program reset, which aims to reduce contamination by simplifying recycling. Learn more on [the city's recycling website](#).

Accordingly, Whitman will no longer collect plastics for recycling; only clean paper, flattened cardboard and empty aluminum and tin cans will be accepted. The [Office of Sustainability](#) is working with Facilities, Residence Life and Office of Communications staff to update signage and bin infrastructure, as well as with Bon Appétit and Whitman's vending provider to replace plastic-packaged items with alternatives.

It is understandable to be disappointed by this news, but there are some actions we can take to reduce our own plastic waste. Individual choices and practices we can adopt to reduce reliance on plastics include:

- Using reusable dishware, like the Eco-Takeouts containers at Cleveland Commons.
- Refilling hand sanitizer spray bottles at refill stations across campus
- Avoiding buying products with plastic packaging, opting instead for cardboard or cans.
- Avoiding foods and products that come in single-serve packaging, buying in bulk instead.
- Repurposing used plastic packaging into storage containers or art.

## Happening Today

- 11:30 a.m. [When All Work is Homework: The Inequalities of At-Home Learning](#)  
*Professor Jessica Calarco presents new research on the unequal challenges families face in supporting their children's learning at home during the pandemic. This event is hosted by the Whitman Friends Program and the Sociology Department.*
- noon [Financial Sustainability Review Staff Forum](#)  
*Ask questions and provide feedback on the preliminary reports provided by the Financial Sustainability Review working groups. Registration is required.*
- noon [Theatre Reimagined: Race, Culture, and Radical Voice](#)  
*Offering his own story and experience, join renowned playwright and artist Jeremy O. Harris for a special lecture and Q&A session about his journey throughout the American theatre. This event is a partnership between WEB and the Power & Privilege Symposium.*
- 1 p.m. [Cross-County Skiing Trip](#)  
*Get out and enjoy the wintertime learning to cross country ski near campus. Equipment and warm winter clothing included.*
- 1 p.m. [Sledding Trip](#)  
*Spend the afternoon sledding on some hills near campus and building snow sculptures. Warm winter clothing and sledding gear provided.*
- 4 p.m. [Financial Sustainability Review Faculty Forum](#)  
*Ask questions and provide feedback on the preliminary reports provided by the Financial Sustainability Review working groups. Registration is required.*

### Whitman Events Calendar

Have a virtual event you'd like to share with campus? Email the details to [whitmantoday@whitman.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](#).

