



# Whitman Today

Friday, September 18, 2020

## Unhealthy Air Alert

Today, we will see more improvement in the air quality in our area. However, it will still be at levels that are considered unhealthy. Please continue to work from your residence today, and avoid exposure to the unhealthy air. If you think the air quality in your workspace is superior to the air where you live, you are welcome to work on campus if you have been approved by human resources to do so.

The Reid Campus Center Post Office, Printing and Mailing Services in Boyer House, pickup at Penrose Library and walk-up assistance at the Technology Services Helpdesk will remain unavailable today.

The air quality is expected to improve over the weekend and we plan on resuming normal campus operations on Monday, Sept. 21.

## Survival Tips for when COVID Keeps College Kids at Home



Several people with Whitman connections are featured in [this syndicated article](#) exploring what it's like for students and parents adjusting to the experience of doing college at home. Rachel Prull, a Tufts University student and daughter of Professor of Psychology Matthew Prull, Wafa Abedin, an Occidental College student and daughter of Dalia Biswas, associate professor of chemistry, and Professor of Sociology Michelle Janning, offer their suggestions for adapting to this unexpected time at home.

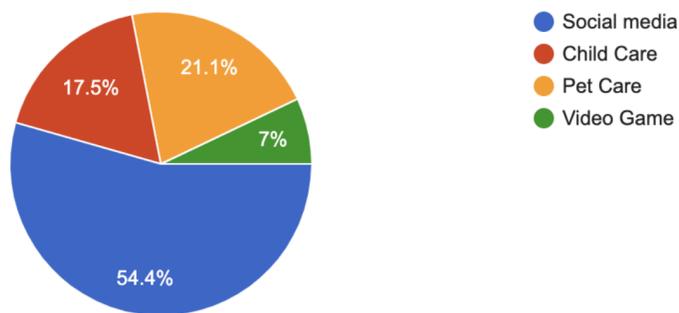
## Announcements

### Internet on Campus Fully Restored

Following a service disruption due to regional wildfires, internet access throughout campus has been fully restored and wired and wifi connections are working normally. In collaboration with our WCTS staff, John van Oppen '05 of Wholesail Networks worked many hours to find ways to reroute our internet service around the problem areas and keep our faculty, staff and students connected.

## Question of the Week: Answer Edition

This week we asked about what vies for your attention while you work or study from home. Not surprisingly in this time of limited in-person interactions, most of us are looking for connections, with friends, family or pets.



## Coping with Coronavirus

### Face Coverings Potentially More Effective than Vaccine

This week, Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [testified before Congress](#) that face coverings, social distancing and other mitigation methods are potentially more effective than a vaccine in preventing transmission of the coronavirus. This summer, [Zoe Brown '21](#) interned with the Department of Community Health in Walla Walla, observing shoppers in local businesses. At the beginning of summer, when case counts began to rise dramatically throughout the county, only 34% of people wore face coverings, but at the end of summer that was up to 97%, leading her to hope that this will lead to lower numbers of new COVID cases.

"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 Daylight 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.

