

*January 28, 2021*

*Campus Update to Faculty, Staff, and Students*

Greetings! After several weeks of unseasonable and fabulous warm weather, winter has arrived. I trust that you are doing your best to make the most of North Dakota's notable winter temperatures and enjoying the lovely snow. Several members of the Comets football team were able to enjoy some genuine North Dakota fun while ice fishing and snowmobiling at North Golden Lake, just about 20 miles west of Mayville State, last weekend. I thank the many volunteers who made the day possible for our students, and I hope we can all recognize the beauty of nature and opportunities that surrounds us.

**North Dakota COVID-19 risk level adjusted**

Effective at 8 a.m. Friday, Jan. 29, North Dakota's COVID-19 risk level will be changed to "low." This is the second time North Dakota's governor has lowered the state's risk level this month. The state's 14-day positivity rate and number of active cases are at their lowest since August. Face coverings continue to be strongly recommended or required state-wide. **However, to further safety, Mayville State's mask mandate continues.** [See the details.](#)

**Free COVID-19 Rapid Testing available on an ongoing basis at Mayville State**

Rapid antigen COVID-19 testing is available to all Mayville State students, faculty, and staff on an ongoing basis. If interested, you'll need to schedule an appointment with Lindsey Hall at [lindsey.m.hall@mayvillestate.edu](mailto:lindsey.m.hall@mayvillestate.edu) or 701-788-4865. Watch your email and the digital message boards located around campus for information regarding mass testing options. If you have not pre-registered for COVID-19 testing in the past, you will need to do so at [testreg.nd.gov](https://testreg.nd.gov).

All Mayville State students, faculty, and staff are strongly encouraged to test. Testing is one of the best things we can all do to help keep one another safe and well. It's up to each of us to do our part to help mitigate the spread of the virus.

**Great news regarding COVID-19 vaccine availability**

Higher education staff, faculty, and administration are included in Phase 1C of the state's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan. Officials estimate that at current vaccine allocation levels, Phase 1C could begin sometime in May of 2021. While they are hopeful that Phase 1C will be reached in May, officials have acknowledged the importance of maintaining stability within the higher education system. For that reason, if the state has not reached Phase 1C by July 1, 2021, North Dakota will reprioritize vaccinations to higher education to ensure that all staff, faculty, and administration have the opportunity to be vaccinated prior to the start of the fall 2021 semester.

In the meantime, all higher education faculty, staff, administration, and students who meet the Phase 1B requirements are encouraged to register for vaccination as soon as it is made available. Phase 1B includes individuals 65 and older with one or more high-risk medical condition, persons with two or more high-risk medical conditions (regardless of age), child care workers, and workers of preschool and kindergarten through grade 12. Phase 1B includes Mayville State's Child Development Programs staff.

### **Support during difficult times**

We are living through difficult times. The pandemic and unrest in our world cause stress for everyone. Your mental well-being is as important as your physical well-being, and we encourage you to take advantage of the counseling services available to you. Your concerns will be heard in a safe and confidential environment.

Students are encouraged to reach out to Lindsay Birke, LAPC, Mayville State's student counselor. You can reach Lindsay at [lindsay.birke@mayvillestate.edu](mailto:lindsay.birke@mayvillestate.edu).

Faculty and staff are asked to visit with Jenise Wilson, LPCC-S, Mayville State's faculty/staff counselor. She can be reached at [jenise.wilson@ndus.edu](mailto:jenise.wilson@ndus.edu).

### **Be safe**

Remember to wear your mask, social distance, wash your hands often, get tested for COVID-19, monitor for symptoms, and stay home if you are not feeling well. These practices are extremely important in helping to control the spread of the coronavirus. Be kind. Let others see your attitude of gratitude. Be safe and be healthy.

### **Payment of fees**

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 was Spring Semester 2021 fee payment day. Students, if you were unable to pay your balance in full, please contact the Business Office at 701-788-4757 immediately, so staff can help with your financial needs. If you are unsure of your financial status or want to pay online, please log in to Campus Connection at <https://mayvillestate.edu/student-resources/campus-connection/>.

### **ND Senate Appropriations Committee hearing for Mayville State**

As I mentioned several days ago, the work of North Dakota's 67th Legislative Assembly has begun. Vice President for Business Affairs Steve Bensen and I were in Bismarck on Jan. 19 to present Mayville State's needs-based budget request before the Senate Appropriations Committee. The presentation went very well and we look forward to our opportunity to speak before the House of Representatives in early March.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Van Horn, President  
Mayville State University