



Subject Line: COVID-19 Update: Exercise Vigilance
Sent to All Students: March 12, 2021

This message is sent to all students and copied to all faculty and staff:

The sun is shining and temperatures are rising and there is a palpable energy on our campuses. This is Western New York coming out of winter. Don't be fooled by this week's temperatures, keep the winter clothes handy. Our spring sports teams can assure you that based on past experience we likely will be shoveling the turf and clearing snow off diamonds.

That said, spring is definitely on its way. Spring is arriving as our country is making real progress toward returning to some resemble of pre-COVID life and activities. Vaccine production and availability has increased over the past several weeks. We remain hopeful that once students are eligible, we will have the opportunity to administer the J&J vaccine on campus. We are pleased that all faculty and staff are now eligible for the vaccine and hope students will be added very soon. Faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to keep all students safe.

However, let's remember that COVID is still here and not over. As President Biden pointed out, we hope July 4th will be different this year. Look at the news and please consider the implications of large outbreaks as we celebrate St. Paddy's Day. Many peer colleges and universities are dealing with the unthinkable and struggling to keep institutions open. Please continue to act unselfishly and gather and celebrate responsibly. I remain optimistic by this semester's data that we are thinking of others and making good decisions.

In closing, as the cases in the community are declining, the College is working hard to find ways to celebrate our students and return to in-person activities. In the last two weeks, I have had several meetings with student government and remain committed to offering activities that follow NYS and CDC guidance to celebrate a year like no other.

Thank you for your commitment to each other and thank you for your persistence throughout this pandemic. I have never been so inspired to work in higher education as you are students have made the struggles worth the fight.

Stay Safe and Celebrate Responsibly,

Amy M. DeKay, MS
Vice President for Student Development