



TO: University of Idaho Students
CC: University of Idaho Faculty and Staff
FROM: Blaine Eckles, Dean of Students and Vice Provost for Student Affairs
DATE: Feb. 4, 2021
SUBJECT: Idaho Moves to Stage 3, We Must Remain Vigilant

On Feb. 2, Gov. Brad Little moved Idaho into [Stage 3](#) of the Idaho Rebounds plan, saying the immediate threat of overburdening our healthcare system with COVID-19 patients has diminished. With each passing day, more Idahoans are receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. This is good news for the state and the University of Idaho; however, we must remain committed to our shared responsibility to protect one another and ourselves from the spread of COVID-19.

The University of Idaho will maintain all current expectations within the [Healthy Vandal Pledge](#), including requirements to maintain social distancing and wear a face covering when on campus or in any university building statewide. Even if you received the vaccine or previously tested positive for the virus, the expectation for maintaining face coverings and other healthy behaviors remains the same. We know that by upholding the Healthy Vandal Pledge, we can and have mitigated the spread of COVID-19.

Our rate of positives each week — currently at 1.8% — is a testament to the hard work students, faculty and staff are doing to maintain an environment that is conducive to in-person learning.

As we approach a weekend where individuals often gather to watch the Super Bowl, we must remember that we cannot ease up on our actions to remain safe, otherwise we jeopardize the hard work that has helped us arrive at this stage. Students who make decisions to gather and put others at risk face possible accountability through the student conduct process.

We have come a long way together and still have a long way to go. But we have shown that by working together, we can achieve great things.

Have a great spring semester and Go Vandals!

Blaine Eckles

Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

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