



# University of Idaho

**TO:** University of Idaho Students, Faculty and Staff  
**FROM:** Scott Green, President  
Torrey Lawrence, Provost and Executive Vice President  
**DATE:** Aug. 30, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Cases Climb but Commitment Appears Strong

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As we enter the second week of classes, we continue to see a spike in COVID-19 cases across the state. We also see an increase in students choosing to be vaccinated and encourage you, if unvaccinated, to sign up for an upcoming [vaccination clinic](#) on the Moscow campus or find a [location near you](#).

Vaccination is truly the best way to end this pandemic and was made even more compelling by last week's [FDA approval](#) of the Pfizer vaccine.

According to [information from Gov. Brad Little](#):

- Since May 15, there have been 10-times as many COVID-19 cases among unvaccinated people compared to vaccinated people,
- Since May 15, there have been 13-times as many COVID-19 hospitalizations among unvaccinated people compared to vaccinated people, and
- Since May 15, there have been 8-times as many COVID-19 deaths among unvaccinated people compared to vaccinated people.

Because case numbers are on the rise, we will continue to require face coverings in all university buildings. We will again review this requirement and announce any changes by Sept. 20. Face coverings do not need to be worn when working alone in an enclosed workspace or working inside an office or other enclosed

workspace where six feet of physical distancing can be constantly maintained. Face coverings should be worn at all times inside the classroom and when traveling with another unrelated person in a university vehicle or for university business.

COVID-19 testing is available across the state. If you test positive for COVID-19, file a [VandalCARE report](#). The university had 11 active positive cases Aug. 21-27. Students living in residence halls or Greek chapter houses who test positive for COVID-19 are housed in our isolation unit. There are six students in this isolation unit, and they are being fully supported in their personal and educational needs.

We will soon have the first drawing for vaccine incentives. Students, you still have time to submit your vaccination information. Students who are fully vaccinated should [submit your documents](#) to receive a \$50 gift card to the VandalStore or Idaho Eats and a chance to win a \$1,000 or \$5,000 tuition credit. So far, 2,256 students have submitted proof of full vaccination. Thank you for your commitment to your own health and that of our fellow Vandals.

We ask that everyone follow the Healthy Vandal Pledge. If you are sick — whether you suspect COVID-19 or are feeling unwell for any reason — stay home. [File a VandalCARE report](#) and work with your supervisor or instructors.

Enjoy the holiday weekend but remember your actions can heavily influence our ability to remain in person this semester. Let's be smart and make the best decisions we can for the health and success of our Vandal Family.

Keep Calm and Vandal On.

*Scott Green*  
*President*

[president@uidaho.edu](mailto:president@uidaho.edu)  
[uidaho.edu/president](http://uidaho.edu/president)

*Torrey Lawrence*  
*Provost and Executive Vice President*

[provost@uidaho.edu](mailto:provost@uidaho.edu)

[uidaho.edu/provost](http://uidaho.edu/provost)

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