

то:	University of Idaho Employees and Students
FROM:	Scott Green, President Torrey Lawrence, Provost and Executive Vice President
DATE:	Jan. 31, 2022
SUBJECT:	Thank You for Your Efforts

The recent spike in COVID-19 cases has left many of us wondering when this may finally end. The weariness is real. Please know we appreciate each and every one of you for the effort and dedication you continue to give to our university, even when life is hard.

Balancing school, work and family in a pandemic is challenging. Students, you can reach out to the Dean of Students Office through a <u>VandalCARE report</u> to get help if you are struggling. The Counseling Center is available at 208-885-6716. For employees, our <u>EAP program</u> is available. If you are concerned about a classmate or colleague, use the <u>VandalCARE report</u> to set our support services in motion.

Omicron has certainly taken hold. Last week case numbers across the state soared — but hospitalizations of those vaccinated did not, according to our partners at Idaho Public Health. <u>Vaccines are readily available</u> for free across the state. We continue to offer <u>vaccination clinics</u> for students and employees in Moscow and vaccine incentives for students. In the first three weeks of this semester, several hundred students submitted their proof of vaccination, bringing our total to more than 4,700. The first \$1,000 tuition awards of the semester will be given out Thursday, Feb. 3. <u>Submit your proof now</u> to be included in this and future drawings.

We received a new shipment of rapid tests late last week. Demand remains high and we will continue to provide these kits to symptomatic people, while supplies last. The tests are available each weekday from noon to 2 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center, east entrance. A valid VandalCard is required. You can also <u>order free rapid tests</u> from the federal government.

Report any positive cases through a <u>VandalCARE report</u> so the university can best assist you.

We hope to see the positive case count drop as we head into February. That has been the trend in other areas. Let's help each other through this — be supportive and flexible.

Keep Calm and Vandal On!

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