



# University of Idaho

**TO:** University of Idaho Parents and Families  
**FROM:** Scott Green, President  
**DATE:** Aug. 21, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Enthusiasm High at U of I

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It is a great week at the University of Idaho. Our campus is filling with students — the lifeblood of a university. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and zest for life inspire all of us to do all we can to ensure their success. That is an especially tall order this year, but one we are up to.

We have worked tirelessly since spring to plan for a fall that can meet the needs of our students, who expect and deserve the amazing in-class experience that unites 130 years' worth of Vandal alumni. Doing this amid a world pandemic means balancing this with the health and wellbeing of our students, employees and Moscow community.

As has been widely reported, we are testing each student on the Moscow campus before they can enter a classroom. We have broad and robust online and HyFlex options to keep all students engaged and learning. We have reduced class sizes, increased room sizes, implemented a face covering requirement and added many more safety protocols to allow us to continue doing what we do best, educating the next generation of Vandals.

We are one of just a few universities across the country to set up a COVID-19 testing lab. This lab, which started running samples this week, allows us to significantly reduce turnaround time on initial testing. These results will help us best understand how to move forward. This information will inform modeling and

decision making and be the basis for continued surveillance testing throughout the semester.

As of Tuesday, Aug. 19, we have received results on 3,694 tests. Our positive tests are running at 0.97%, well below the national rate and a manageable level. Most of the staff and students testing positive live off campus, are isolating in their residences and are following guidance from Idaho Public Health.

We have a handful of students in our on-campus isolation facility. They are cared for by university staff and monitored by Idaho Public Health.

To our knowledge, none of the people who have tested positive are experiencing any significant symptoms. While we will not reach out to individual parents about test results unless there is an emergency health issue, we are encouraging all students who test positive to communicate with their families.

We continue to post updates on our pandemic response on the U of I [COVID-19 website](#).

With our students back on campus, it is now our task to keep our community protected. We have asked students to stay here until Thanksgiving Break (including over Labor Day weekend) and to limit travel. We would ask the same of you. Please consider checking in with your student virtually rather than risk exposing yourself or others to this virus. If we, as a collective, fail, we will be forced to move all instruction online and send students home. Alternatively, careful actions by all of us will help us toward our goal of providing in-person classes through the remainder of the academic year.

I am the first to say it is great to have students back. I look forward to the semester ahead and the opportunity to do what Vandals do best,

Keep Calm and Vandal On.

*Scott Green*  
*President*

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

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

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