



August 9, 2021

Dear Heidelberg Students:

We are only **one week and two days** away from starting the fall semester!

Our football team student-athletes and band students will arrive tomorrow. First-year students will move in on Saturday and returning students will do the same on Sunday. Students will be given their specific move-in times at registration to manage the traffic flow in the residence halls. We ask that no more than two people per student help move their belongings into rooms. **All unvaccinated students** must arrive with a 72-hour negative COVID-19 test result or test negative upon arrival before moving in.

All faculty and staff are excited to see all of you return to campus!

Our campus vaccination rates are rising (Good!) but still not high enough to gain herd immunity for the whole community (at **75%**) or for an athletic team (at **85%**). Our total campus vaccination rate is now **66.2%**:

- > All undergraduate students = $621/981 = 63.3\%$
- > All graduate students = $96/133 = 72.2\%$
- > All employees = $183/246 = 74.4\%$

Everyone received the *Heidelberg University COVID-19 Health & Well-Being Plan* with our campus operating protocols last week. We are following CDC, ODH, Seneca County Health District, and NCAA guidelines. It is regrettable that we must begin this semester with stricter COVID-19 guidelines for mask wearing, 3-feet social distancing, and overnight traveling (restricted to vaccinated individuals) to ensure everyone's health and success.

But we can reach campus herd immunity to make our lives easier and safer through vaccination. You can use this link to find the most convenient COVID vaccination site in Ohio for you: gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov. You can use this link to get vaccinated in Tiffin (location near campus): <https://www.senecahealthdept.org/vaccine>.

The U.S. COVID-19 vaccination rate is now 58.7% with at least one dose and 50.1% fully vaccinated. The Ohio vaccination rate is 50.0% one dose and 46.5% fully vaccinated. Seneca County is only 41.6% one dose and 39.3% fully vaccinated. With the highly transmissible delta variant surging everywhere, the 7-day running positivity rate has increased to 10.1% in the U.S., to 6.1% in Ohio, and to 2.6% in Seneca County.

Unfortunately, our county is now classified as **Substantial Transmission (Orange)** by the CDC. Nearly all Ohio counties (83/88) are currently Substantial/High Transmission (Orange/Red).

I look forward to seeing all of you on campus soon. Please get vaccinated!

Respectfully,

Rob Huntington
President