



March 8, 2021

Dear Heidelberg Students:

This second week in March will mark the middle of our spring semester. With appreciation for everyone's shared efforts, we are three-quarters home to completing a successful academic year despite lots of adversity!

The Ohio COVID-19 7-day running positivity rate has declined to 3.1%. Seneca County has now improved to Orange Alert with a running test positivity rate of 1.8% and 15.2% of our county population having received at least one vaccination. Our cumulative campus positivity rate is still only 1.2% based on over 4,000 tests. Please see our *Berg COVID-19 Spring 2021 Dashboard* here www.heidelberg.edu/dashboard.

The Ohio National Guard will provide free COVID-19 campus surveillance testing in Seiberling Gym on Wednesday. With some authorized exceptions, this testing is mandatory for all campus employees. We will also utilize the National Guard for our mandatory student surveillance testing this week. Other students may test voluntarily.

It is exciting that our Student Prince spring and fall athletic teams are already playing or about to start competition. The OAC Presidents Council approved the OAC Athletic Directors recommendation to permit each participating home and visiting student-athlete and coach two spectator admissions to every game or match up to the 30% spectator area capacity limit set by Governor DeWine. Game Day energy will be rising on our campus!

Congratulations to the Heidelberg Theatre Department for broadcasting two recorded performances this weekend, *Dance Nation* and *Puffs*, on the Gundlach website. Such creativity, hard work, and persistence! I had a chance to watch *Puffs* yesterday and I really enjoyed the tremendous British accents, energetic stage setting, and abundance of humor.

Looking ahead to our annual celebration of outstanding student scholarship, I encourage students to register and present their research at the *Heidelberg Life of the Mind Student Research Conference* on April 13th. All presentations will be virtual except the poster sessions. It is always an excellent day on this campus!

Please keep an eye out for our upcoming announcement about *Commencement 2021*.

We should all be very proud of the Heidelberg Faculty for continuing to teach, advise, research, and serve this University community with such passion, care, intellect, and commitment for our students.

Let us maintain our campus health and success for everyone ... masking, distancing, and testing!

Respectfully,

Rob Huntington
President