



January 4, 2021

Dear Heidelberg Students:

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope that this extremely well-deserved holiday break was nice in all ways possible for you and your families. We are all hoping for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and many other better things in 2021.

As we welcome back to campus our winter sport student-athletes, their coaches, their athletic trainers, and the RAs who tested negative before returning this week, we are now implementing our *Heidelberg Spring 2021 COVID-19 Testing Plan & Protocols* in strict adherence to the CDC, Ohio Department of Health, Seneca County Health Department, NCAA, and OAC guidelines. To provide some perspective on the scale of our commitment, we conducted a total of 2,563 COVID tests in the fall term. We are planning to run over 6,500 COVID tests this term.

Our health services staff is ready to handle this testing challenge to ensure the health and safety of all students, faculty and staff. It will be necessary for everyone to follow all of our campus safety protocols. Dean of Student Affairs Chris Abrams will continue to provide instructions for all returning students. We want as much of a full residential learning and extracurricular experience as possible this semester.

Unfortunately, the Ohio 7-day running positivity rate has jumped back up to 14.5%. These next two months will be especially threatening to our campus and broader community health.

I have confidence in all students to help ensure our University success this spring semester! It will be great when everyone returns to campus in two weeks to officially start the term with *MLK, Jr. Day ON!* on Monday, January 18th.

Respectfully,

Rob Huntington
President