

MSU Community,

As you know, we had a large testing event on Wednesday, September 9. On that day, slightly more than 500 tests were conducted at the Minot State Dome. Through communications with the ND Department of Health last night and today, we can now confirm that 64 tests came back positive (60 students and 4 faculty/staff). This is certainly the largest number of positive cases that have been confirmed through our testing so far this semester.

Further, with many of the individuals who tested positive but were not experiencing any symptoms, these results underscore the prevalence of asymptomatic carriers of the virus. These results also demonstrate the importance of our continued vigilance with ongoing serial testing events we have scheduled in the coming weeks (beginning with two testing events next week on Tuesday, September 15 and Friday, September 18).

The ND Department of Health is continuing to conduct contact tracing with these 64 cases; much of that work has been done, but it is still continuing this weekend. Also, a reminder that we held a testing event yesterday (Friday, September 11) with approximately 170 tests, and we do not yet have any of those results.

This increase in positive cases also highlights the importance for all of us to continue adhering to the COVID guidelines as suggested by the CDC:

1. Wearing a cloth mask (required inside any building on the MSU campus);
2. Washing hands frequently for at least 20 seconds, and using hand sanitizer if soap/water is not accessible;
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
4. Maintaining physical distancing of at least 6 feet between yourself and others you do not live with;
5. Always covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze;
6. Regular cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces;
7. Avoiding large crowded gatherings, especially indoors;
8. Monitoring your health regularly – if you are sick or having any COVID symptoms (fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, body aches, etc), stay home and do NOT go to school or work;
  - a. Full list of COVID symptoms here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Finally, a few other reminders/updates regarding our testing protocol:

1. Some individuals have been tested twice per week. First District Health Unit would prefer no one get tested more than once per week in our mass testing events.
2. According to our contact at the ND Department of Health, if you test positive, you should not get tested again for four months.
3. Testing during the upcoming week will be held on Tuesday, September 15 and Friday, September 18; 9:00-11:00 am both days at the MSU Dome.

4. Please do NOT contact MSU Student Health for your test results. You will be contacted by the ND Department of Health. More info here: <https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/symptoms-testing-care/test-results>
5. To assist with future contact tracing, if you have not yet done so – you are strongly encouraged to download the free Care19 Alert App: <https://www.ndresponse.gov/covid-19-resources/care19>
6. MSU's COVID page is regularly updated with information including a ticker with current case numbers: <https://www.minotstateu.edu/covid/>

Thanks for your vigilance with all of these details as we continue working to maintain a safe campus,

Steve

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**Go Beavers!**