Aug. 29, 2020

Dear Campus Community,

The first round of pooled-sample COVID-19 surveillance testing for students will be done Wednesday, Sept. 2 through Friday, Sept. 4 in Algonquin Dining Hall from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. each day.

This initial set will include all approximately 1,600 residential students living on campus and will be done at no charge to them. They are being informed of the pool testing protocol today.

On Monday, students selected for testing will receive an email from Steve Matthews, director of Campus Housing and Community Living. They will be given a specific appointment time and detailed instructions to prepare for the test. All students selected for the pool test are expected to participate.

Due to the number being tested, appointment times cannot be adjusted. Accordingly, the testing protocol may interfere with students’ ability to attend class and faculty should make accommodations.

As I wrote earlier this week, the pool test protocol and materials are provided by SUNY Upstate Medical University. It involves a saliva-testing method, rather than the insertion of a swab into an individual’s nose. Students will administer the test themselves by swabbing the inside of their mouth for 10 to 15 seconds and providing the saliva sample to medical personnel.

Thank you for your continuing support of our students. This is a challenging time, especially for our first-year students. Know your efforts are appreciated and make a difference.

Please remain vigilant, abide by the Cardinal Pledge and continue to follow with our Social Distancing and Face Covering Policy. Working together, we can keep our campus community safe and healthy.

Dr. Alexander Enyedi
President