



HEALTHY TOGETHER

Classes are over, and we've celebrated our successes together with fireworks. Now it's time to bear down and finish the year well.

Best wishes for finals week and the months ahead.

Vaccinations

Our goal for next fall is the same as it was for this fall, to emphasize:

- the health and safety of our students and employees
- the quality of our academic and educational programs
- the integrity of our residential campus experience

This past year, we managed the tension among these priorities using social distancing, masks and COVID-testing protocols. As a nation and campus community, we eagerly anticipated the availability of vaccines that would allow us to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and return as much as possible to our pre-COVID normal.

Those vaccines are now available and **we strongly recommend that students be fully vaccinated before they return to school** so that we can discontinue the other mitigation strategies. The efficacy of the vaccines is apparent not only in the U.S., but in nations around the world.

When we return in August, we will be quite full residentially. It is our goal and hope to operate normally, with full access to academic, recreational, artistic and athletic opportunities and events.

Although we believe that vaccines offer the best path to ensuring a healthy community this fall, we have decided to **wait until late in June before making a final decision regarding the fall semester**. We will make a decision about campus mitigation requirements at that time based on research evidence and the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and other leading experts. We recognize that the FDA process for full approval of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines will soon move to the next phase now that six months of follow-up data is available.

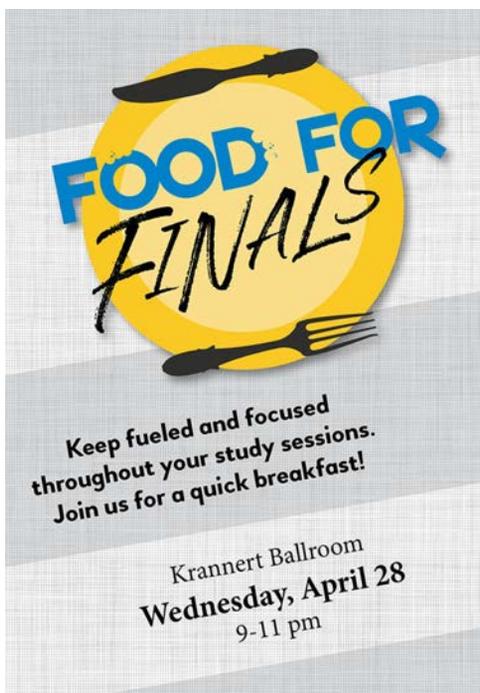
To protect the health of our community, the college **reserves the right** to require students to be vaccinated before arriving this fall should this prerequisite provide a better and more comprehensive approach to ensuring the integrity of our residential community than continued use of the current mitigation strategies. Stay tuned for further updates and town hall conversations (via Zoom) in June.

Commencement

We are looking forward to a commencement ceremony in-person on Saturday, May 8, at 9 a.m. The ceremony will be in Valhalla and will also be live-streamed. Family groups of 4, 6 or 8 chairs will be on the turf and distanced appropriately. Additional seating will be available in the Valhalla stands. Graduates may bring as many guests as they wish for the outdoor ceremony. All attendees will need to wear masks due to the size of the audience.

Additional details are posted on the commencement webpage www.berry.edu/commencement.

TIME TO STUDY! FINISH WELL.



COVID BY THE NUMBERS

BERRY:

Moderate / **lime** green level of risk.

For week of April: 22-28: 0 student cases

For week of April 15-21: 0 student case

Number of active cases at Berry: 0

Number quarantined: 3

ROME/FLOYD COUNTY:

Moderate / **lime** green level of risk

4.1% positive tests in last 14 days (compared to 5.4% in state of GA).

79/100,000 new COVID cases in the last 14 days (compared to 124/100,000 in GA).

20 COVID cases in Floyd and Redmond hospitals (down 19 from last week)

If you have any COVID-related questions, send an email to covid_19questions@berry.edu. Our staff will get back to you in a timely manner.