

# *Erin* Washington College

## CPG Update: January 29, 2021



### BLAKE ERDMANN - FOREVER A SHOREMAN

While our community grieves the loss of Blake Erdmann, please know that Counseling Services are available.

You may reach out by calling 410-778-7261, or by emailing Miranda Altman at [maltman2@washcoll.edu](mailto:maltman2@washcoll.edu). If you need to speak with a counselor after hours, please contact Public Safety at 410-778-7810 (extension 7810 from a campus phone), and you will be connected with a counselor. You may also access support directly by contacting Eastern Shore Crisis Services, a 24/7 hotline and mobile crisis dispatch, at 1-888-407-8010.

Blake was a great friend and teammate to many and our thoughts remain with his family and loved ones.

Plans are being made for a community event that will allow us to come together in some way to honor and remember Blake. We will send out further details next week.

**New!**

### FALL 2021 SEMESTER PLAN INCLUDES FULL RETURN

One of the primary responsibilities of this Contingency Planning Group (CPG) is to look ahead to the next semester and begin that planning. With the spring semester now underway, this was on the agenda this week and we are pleased to share with you that we are planning for a full return to campus this fall, with in-person instruction. The projections around vaccinations are very encouraging and it is our firm belief that we can safely plan for a return to the traditional Washington College residential experience. It is likely that there will still need to be some minor modifications needed such as social distancing, but those things will be evaluated and decided upon in the coming months. The default position however is a full return to campus and a return to in-person teaching.

# STUDENTS: HAVE YOU JOINED CAMPUS GROUPS?

If you haven't already, we encourage all students (talking to you, first-years!) to **join CAMPUS GROUPS**. The SGA, RA's, Peer Mentors, Student clubs and organizations and the Student Engagement Board have all been busy planning a variety of events to get students connected and involved. If you can't figure out how to join, email or ask your RA and they can help you with the process.

Pay attention to your email as well. Information about upcoming events or things to get involved in is regularly shared that way.

## FACE MASK REMINDER

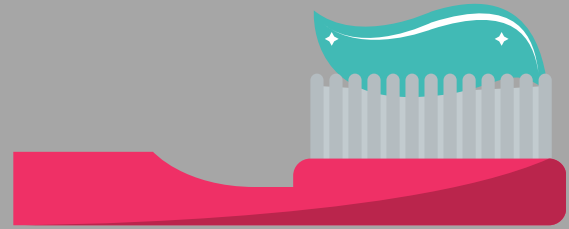
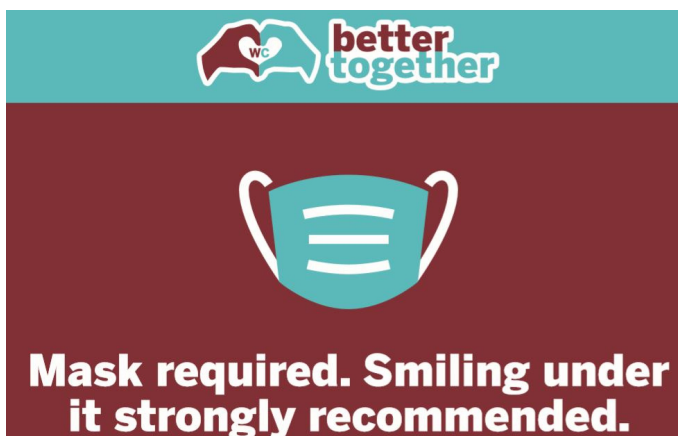
As we all know, wearing a face mask or covering is required on campus this semester. We want to thank all the students for their compliance with this COVID safety measure - keep up the great work!

We did notice during move-in some masks that were virtually see-through and/or ill-fitting and wanted to provide some details/reminders about what type of face covering is going to best protect you.

First, fit is key. For a mask to do its job, it should fit closely to your face, shielding your nose and mouth completely. If there are large gaps around your cheekbones, it's not going to be effective.

As for what type of mask, for the general public the general consensus is that surgical masks (the blue paper kind) and multi-layer cloth coverings made of tightly woven material are effective. The CDC recommends face coverings made of two or more layers of breathable, washable fabric such as cotton. This is why gaiters and bandanas are not recommended, as they are typically only single-layered fabrics.

Remember that what the mask is doing is stopping any respiratory droplets - the predominant method that COVID-19 is spread - from reaching your mouth or nose. It also prevents asymptomatic spread by reducing the transmission of droplets into the air by those who feel healthy but have the virus.



## HEALTH TIP!

Passing on a little health tip to all students direct from Lisa Marx, our Director of Health Services.

She wanted to make sure all students know that items left out in bathrooms are a GREAT way to share all kinds of germs and viruses - so ummm, don't do that!

There may be a toothbrush holder there for you to use, but we strongly encourage you to carry all your toiletry items into and then back out of the bathroom with you each time, versus leaving them out in the open.

**PRO TIP:** This advice actually applies for all times, not just during life with COVID.

# INFORMAL STUDY SPACES OPENING SOON!

The Events team has readied a few spaces around campus for students to use as informal study spaces. They are: **The Egg and Goosenest** in Hodson Hall and **McLain Atrium** in Toll Science Center. We encourage students to utilize these spaces for a change of scenery, but do ask that everyone abide by the below guidelines. Frequent violations will result in these spaces being closed down. These areas will open up once the initial quarantine period ends.

- Please do NOT change the setup of these areas - the tables and chairs have been arranged in order to assure that students can maintain social distance while there.
- In order to allow others to use this space, please limit your stay to no more than 90 minutes. These tables cannot be reserved, they are available on a first-come, first-served basis only.
- There will be cleaning supplies provided - please use them to wipe down the surfaces as you are leaving. Be sure to take all of your belongings and any trash with you as well.

## WHAT'S THIS ALERT LEVEL REALLY ALL ABOUT?

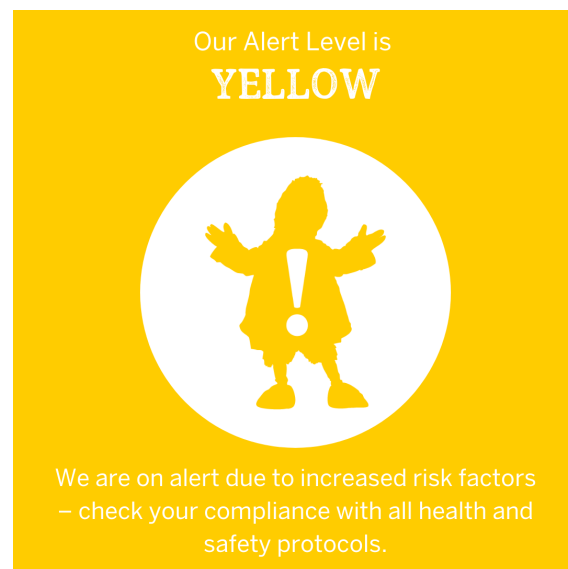
By now, you're probably heard at least some reference to the College's Alert Level...maybe you even checked out the larger description in the Handbook or on the [website](#).

But we wanted to talk a little bit here about what it really means and what the definition of success really is this semester.

First point here is that **YELLOW is GOOD**. Yes, there is one level better (GREEN), but given the rate of infection within our surrounding community and across the state, right now staying in YELLOW is a win. Also, operationally, there isn't much that changes between GREEN and YELLOW, as this "warning" level has been defined as just that - a warning that there is some data trending higher than we'd like it to, and therefore the need to stay vigilant has some urgency to it.

A second and very related point, is that if we stay in YELLOW for the next month, this is also a GOOD thing. Staying here means everyone is doing their part to avoid outbreaks, and that we can continue to keep Dining Services open (with proper social distancing and capacity caps), students can spend time in the Library, go work out in the JFC, spend time in our identified informal study areas, etc. It also allows for in-person instruction at that midway point. So don't get discouraged if we stay the same, as that's a very positive place to be.

The third point to make is that **we are incredibly impressed with how returning students embraced the request to quarantine at home**, in order to avoid an influx of cases. With the large majority of students through the first gateway test, we have only had one positive COVID case. Thank you to all of you who made sacrifices and complied with the quarantine and are continuing to comply with it for your first 14 days. We are so proud of your efforts and happy to have you back!





# WELCOME TO OUR NEW HEALTH SERVICES TEAM MEMBERS!

## MEET BRANDY BARRETT, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC

We are pleased to formally introduce Brandy Barrett, the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner who is working in conjunction with the Health Services Team to provide mental health services to students.

She is available by appointment only. Any student who wishes to make an appointment can call Health Services (410-778-7261) to set that up. Currently she is available on Mondays only.



## MEET SHEKAYLA HOOKS, DNP, APRN, FNP-C

We are pleased to formally introduce Dr. SheKayla Hooks, a Family Nurse Practitioner who is a newer member of our Health Services Team.

To make an appointment can call Health Services (410-778-7261).

Students will be seen by the Family Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Registered Nurse or Physician that is available.

