Dear Westmont Community,

We’ve made it to Thanksgiving break! Way to go, Westmonters!

As we prepare for the break next week, we want to remind everyone how important it is to practice **ALL** safety protocols to help prevent the spread of the virus and to keep it away from campus! We **ALL** have to continue being very diligent, so when we return to campus after Thanksgiving we can reestablish our safe community.

If you’re planning to leave campus for the break, please think of those in your Westmont pod you’re returning to: your roommate, friends, professors, colleagues and peers. Do your part by keeping yourself safe while you’re away because everybody benefits when you remain healthy.

Wherever you’re going, we hope you’ll keep your travels very limited. Please be aware of your surroundings and keep observing and prioritizing all the protocols you’ve been following so well. Even if others around you, such as your family or friends, do not wear masks, please remember to keep wearing yours. We want you to have an enjoyable Thanksgiving, but please don’t gather in large groups or visit places where you’re at higher risk of catching the virus. If you plan to travel to a location experiencing a high number of COVID cases, please be extremely careful so you don’t contract the virus and return to campus with it.

We’ll test everyone—staff, faculty and students—when we return after Thanksgiving break. We’ll begin testing on Tuesday, Dec. 2, and continue through that week. Testing will take place in Murchison Gym as before. You’ll receive information regarding testing times and who will be tested when, from Institutional Resilience.

When we return, we’ll be more restricted with in-person interactions: no coordinated group activities and no gatherings of two or more will be allowed in residence hall rooms. All classes will be outside.
or remote (other than studios and labs at 25 percent of capacity). Professors should remind their students whether their classes are outside in a tent or remote. Students who will finish the semester remotely must inform professors before they leave. We know that community interactions are one of the greatest benefits of coming to Westmont, so if you plan on seeing friends on campus, please do so outside, distanced and masked, particularly before you have a negative COVID test result in hand. If you can maintain 6 feet or more of distance while wearing your mask, you virtually eliminate the risk of getting infected or spreading COVID, and you avoid becoming a contact.

Let’s remember that when we return from Thanksgiving break, we’ll only have three weeks left to wrap up the fall semester! Thank you, again, for being so responsible during the past nine weeks! You’ve done a remarkable job of keeping our campus open and safe.

God’s protection and blessings be with you as you celebrate this season of gratitude! Let’s return safely and do everything we can to continue to Protect the Mont!

Pick up a #protecttheMont sticker for your smart device or portable water bottle from the tables outside Kerrwood or the DC. Please watch these two important messages that President Beebe and Jason Tavarez have prepared for you. After Thanksgiving break, we'll provide more information about repopulating campus after Christmas break as we look ahead to the spring semester that begins January 11, 2021.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Westmont Communications