

Dec. 22, 2020

## **DePauw University Fall 2020 COVID-19 Update**

During fall term at DePauw University, spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 on campus was low and individuals made decisions that aligned with the university's pandemic motto of "Tigers Take Care." DePauw instituted enhanced cleaning protocols, required every student and faculty or staff member to wear masks on campus, and to keep a six-foot distance from one another. Compliance was high within the community. 761 students lived on campus; 95 commuted; 848 studied remotely; and 28 studied off campus in study abroad or internship programs. Student-support offices were staffed utilizing new health and safety protocols, and many non-student-facing employees continued to work remotely in support of campus health.

An analysis of data collected throughout the term demonstrated that the health and safety protocols implemented by the university were effective at reducing or eliminating spread of the virus. Instances where transmission did occur on campus were relegated to occasions when masking and/ or physical distancing protocols were, either by choice or circumstance, not followed.

The DePauw contact tracing team worked swiftly when a student or employee tested positive for COVID-19, which enabled the university to quickly track down potential positive cases. A strong partnership with the Putnam County Health Department was paramount in making decisions to support the health and wellbeing of individual students, the DePauw community, and the larger Greencastle region. Throughout the term, nearly 3,000 tests were done on asymptomatic students, faculty and staff as part of DePauw's testing program. More information regarding testing and results can be found at DePauw's [public COVID-19 dashboard here](#).

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