

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

Thank you for helping start the spring semester safely. Your cooperation with our [Entrance Testing Requirement](#) helped identify nearly 50 COVID positive cases before returning to campus. If you are returning to campus for the first time later this semester, note that the entrance testing requirement is still in place.

We understand you may be feeling "COVID fatigue". However, COVID-19 is still a severe issue. Wake County is now listed at Orange in the NC Department of Human Services COVID alert system, indicating substantial community spread. New virus variations make it imperative that you continue to follow our [Community Standards](#).

### **Safe Spring and Spring Break**

As previously announced, Meredith intends to hold spring break from Monday, March 15 to Sunday, March 21. Because of continued COVID-19 spread throughout the country, we strongly discourage any travel over spring break. If you decide to travel or attend an in-person group event or ceremony, either for spring break or at other times, remember to follow the COVID safety guidelines listed below.

**If you have traveled or been around anyone you do not live with, we recommend quarantining off-campus and then obtaining a COVID PCR test 5-7 days into your quarantine period. Wait for your results to be returned and only return to campus if your PCR test is negative.** Free off-site testing is available in many locations. Visit these links for information in [Wake County](#) and [throughout the state](#).

Our community did a very good job in the fall, ensuring that we could complete the semester as planned. Let's get through the spring semester as well.

### **COVID Safety Basics**

Anyone who lives, learns, or works at Meredith or visits the Meredith campus must adhere to the Three Ws: Wear a face covering, Wait six feet apart, and Wash hands frequently. Other guidance includes not gathering in groups and self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms (including using the [CampusClear app](#) if you live on campus or are coming to campus). Meredith College students and employees are required to adhere to the College's [Community Standards](#) and mandates from the State of North Carolina *both on campus and off*.

### **Vaccine Education**

The good news is that vaccines have been developed to fight COVID-19. The state is currently in phase two of its multi-phase [vaccine distribution plan](#). Meredith has a planning committee working to educate the campus community about the vaccine,

including an upcoming webinar presented by faculty in our Department of Biological Sciences. Look for more information about this webinar and other vaccine information plans soon. In the meantime, please note that even if someone has been vaccinated, it is important to continue following the 3Ws to stay safe.

The health and safety of our students and employees remain our top priorities. We appreciate how seriously our community has taken COVID safety protocols throughout this pandemic. Thank you for your continued attention to these important messages.

-- Meredith College Executive Leadership Team