November 24, 2021

Dear Ilisaġvik College Community

As we approach Thanksgiving, I have been reflecting on the many different aspects in my life for which I am thankful and grateful. Ilisaġvik College is high on that gratitude list—and each of you contribute to that greatly. I wanted to provide a COVID-19 update to help prepare for the upcoming Spring 2022 semester.

We had a successful Fall semester operating in our phase four (4) fully operationally status. Since the start of the semester on August 23rd, 2021, we have had 4 confirmed-positive case that were identified on campus. These low rates are a testament to our college-wide dedication to health and safety. Quyanaqpauraq (thank-you very much) for your commitment to our students, to our college, to our communities, and to the safety of each of our co-workers.

Moving forward, we plan is to kick off our Spring ’22 semester in phase four (4) operational status. We are anticipating seeing everyone (all staff and full-time faculty) on campus in person for Staff Orientation the week of January 10th, and classes will start as planned the week of January 18th.

As we enter Spring 2022, Ilisaġvik College will now be requiring documentation of COVID-19 vaccinations or weekly COVID-19 testing for all employees, as well as the following student populations: student workers, students who engage in college-related travel, and students who reside on campus in Residential Living. The deadline for submitting your initial documentation (immunization record or first weekly test) is January 4th.

We will be using an online third-party, HIPAA-compliant vendor to collect this information. Additional information and details will be shared via email and will be accessible online under our COVID-19 tab. This information will be available by December 6th.

Please review the following attachments that have been revised:

- COVID Response Plan
- COVID-19 FAQs
- COVID-19 Campus Exposure Procedure

Administration continues to monitor local, regional, and state COVID-19 related information, to help guide our decisions. Quyanaqpak for your flexibility and patience as we continue to adapt to the ever-changing COVID-19 environment.

Qaunagilutin! Be safe

Justina Wilhelm, President