

Dear Students:

Regionally and throughout Indiana and the country, COVID continues to spread, with higher positivity rates and accelerating growth in cases. Indications are that hospitals and health care services in many areas are straining to handle that growth along with their normal caseloads.

While VU has thus far managed to keep the number of COVID cases among employees and students on our campuses and sites relatively low, we are also experiencing increases among faculty, staff, and students who are positive cases, primary contacts, or awaiting test results.

Though we had hoped to maintain our current instructional approach through November 24, that no longer seems like the best option to protect our students, employees, and communities. Therefore, I am announcing that **VU will cease all face-to-face instruction at the end of next Friday, November 20 at both the Vincennes and Jasper campuses.** *Some exceptions will be made to permit face-to-face instruction through November 24, such as clinicals, labs, and internships, but those exceptions will be granted only where absolutely necessary for teaching the remaining material.*

· Faculty are working with their Deans and the Provost to determine which classes must continue through the 24th and ***you will be contacted by your instructors if your classes will be expected to meet on the 23rd or 24th.***

· The residence halls will remain open through the end of fall semester, as before, but we encourage residential students to move home, if possible.

· Students who check out of residence halls prior to the end of fall semester will receive a pro-rata credit to their account for room and board charges.

I want to thank you for your efforts to make this semester go as smoothly and safely as possible under these unusual circumstances and I wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving, along with the remainder of the fall semester.

Sincerely,

Chuck Johnson
President