

UPDATE

From the Office of the President
January 27, 2021

Dear Members of the Aquinas Community,

Welcome to the 2021 year! Although the novel coronavirus still permeates throughout our country and world, we are pleased to again begin the semester with on-campus, face-to-face classes. The protocols and precautionary measures in place at Aquinas Institute of Theology make it possible to approach this spring semester with caution but optimism as the availability of vaccination opportunities increases. With many of our friends and neighbors struggling during this pandemic, we are mindful of their needs and wish to provide assistance and support as a community with prayers and considerate actions.

Please pray for our Aquinas community and be assured of my prayers for you.

Yours in Christ and St. Dominic,
Fr. Mark E. Wedig, OP, PhD

Important COVID-19-related Information for the Spring Semester

**PROTOCOLS IN PLACE FOR
AQUINAS INSTITUTE STUDENTS:**

- If you feel sick, develop symptoms, or test positive, refrain from coming into the building for class or work.
- Should you experience COVID symptoms or test positive, promptly communicate with your instructors. In addition, you are encouraged to immediately pass along COVID-related information to Br. John Steilberg, Executive Director of Operations.
- Proper protocols will continue to be implemented in the building. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Using the temperature sensor as a screening protocol;
 - Signing-in upon entering and leaving the building to record contact tracing information;
 - Practicing social distancing;
 - Wearing a face mask to cover both the nose and mouth at all times;
 - Washing hands frequently and thoroughly and practicing frequent washing of hands;
 - Sanitizing tables, chairs, and other furniture and instruments following each use – faculty and students should wipe down the places where they sat after each class;
 - Following the one-way traffic flow to minimize congestion;
 - Adhering to capacity limits in common areas and offices – no more than two in an office at one time;
 - Avoiding crowded areas and eating in isolation;
 - Communicating with Br. John Steilberg whenever traveling prior to or during the semester because of the wide variety of protocols to follow as designated by the CDC.

VACCINATION PLAN:

- Currently, Saint Louis University (SLU) is applying to become a distribution site for the novel coronavirus vaccine(s). Plans are to include faculty, staff, and students of Aquinas Institute into the SLU distribution.
- Distribution of the vaccine(s) is being conducted by groups. We are required to follow the State of Missouri COVID-19 Vaccination Plan:
 - Phase 1-A - (MO):** All healthcare personnel and staff who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to COVID-19 and are unable to work from home
 - Phase 1-B - (MO):** Tier 1 – First responders & those in emergency services
Tier 2 – High-risk individuals
Tier 3 – Those who work in critical infrastructure
 - Phase 2:** Those participating in equity & economic recovery (includes higher education faculty and staff)
 - Phase 3:** All Missouri residents
- The Disaster Preparedness Team, which partners SLU and SSM Health, is encouraging AI students and employees to utilize the City of St. Louis Department of Health online registration for the vaccine waiting list. Students should try to receive the vaccine as soon as possible through any eligible government agency.

**Please direct questions or requests for information to the
Office of the President at President@ai.edu**

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. ROMANS 8:38-39