



*From the Office of the President
The Rev. Kristin Johnston Largent, Ph.D.*

RESPONDING TO COVID-19: UPDATE AS OF AUGUST 2021

Dear Wartburg Community,

Blessings to you and your families and friends as the summer winds down. I hope that you were able to find time for recreation and restoration, and that you were also able to stay safe and healthy.

The COVID task force met on August 18, and I am writing on behalf of the task force to share with you the latest policies and procedures related to COVID-19 that will inform our life together.

First, I want to emphasize that we continue our practice of being well-informed by seeking guidance from local and national resources, including current CDC information, all in service of implementing guidelines that best support the safety and health of our specific Wartburg Seminary community.

Second, I want you to know that the COVID task force will be meeting regularly, monitoring the situation both locally and nationally, and we will update our policies and practices as needed, as dictated by current conditions.

Third, it is worth repeating that the most up-to-date scientific research continues to demonstrate that vaccines are the best and most effective way to stop the spread of COVID-19, including the Delta variant. *We at Wartburg strongly encourage all those who are able, and their family members, to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.*

Finally, I want to reiterate that, as always, the health and safety of our community is paramount. As an example of that, we have made the decision to allow a one-time exception for students to attend Prolog Week synchronously, via Zoom, if they do not feel comfortable or safe travelling to campus.

In light of those introductory statements, the following specific practices have been implemented here at the Wartburg Seminary campus:

1. A temporary mask expectation for all indoor public spaces has been implemented. Exceptions to this expectation are as follows:
 - When in one's personal residence
 - When actively eating or drinking
 - When alone in one's private working space.
 - Vaccinated faculty are permitted to be unmasked while actively teaching.
2. We expect that everyone who comes to the campus is vaccinated, unless medically prohibited.
3. Sanitation stations have been set up at various points throughout the campus, and we ask that you not only regularly wash your own hands, but also sanitize public use areas regularly, such as tables, as you are able, to supplement the work of our staff.

Please join with us as we continue to pray for the health and safety of all those in our community, in this country, and around the world who are sick and in need of healing, for children and the most vulnerable among us, for healthcare workers and others who are caring for the health and safety of individuals and communities, and for local, state, and national officials who are responsible for making policies to best safeguard their communities.

Thank you all for your thoughtful attention to and consideration for your neighbor: we mask (and vaccinate) because we care!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin Johnston Largen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Kristin Johnston Largen, Ph.D.
President,