

Oct. 29, 2020



This weekly newsletter contains important information about UW-Eau Claire's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and offers Blugolds details on how to access key resources and assist others on our campuses and in our communities.

UW-Eau Claire COVID-19 dashboard receives 'A-' grade in national review

UW-Eau Claire's COVID-19 dashboard received high praise this week from a national group of doctors, academic leaders and health care professionals who are reviewing university dashboards across the country. The We Rate Covid Dashboards group gave UW-Eau Claire's dashboard an A- rating, the highest rating of any university dashboard in Wisconsin. Marquette University's dashboard also received an A- rating. The dashboard group has reviewed 295 university dashboards, [and only 34 universities received a rating higher than UW-Eau Claire \(A or A+\)](#). UW-Eau Claire's department of Institutional Research, namely Casey Rozowski and Nicole Kraft, have done the heavy lifting to make UW-Eau Claire's COVID dashboard informative and a cut above the rest. And thanks to great effort from the Blugold community, the positivity rate continues to trend in the low single digits.

UW-Eau Claire expands antigen testing program as positivity rate plummets

Earlier this month UW-Eau Claire expanded its successful antigen testing program to include students living off campus as the university's comprehensive approach to reducing the spread of COVID-19 has resulted in a dramatic decrease in positive cases among students. Expansion of the university's [antigen testing program](#) has gone hand-in-hand with a significant decrease in the positivity rate within the campus community. While Wisconsin and Eau Claire County have seen large increases in community

spread, UW-Eau Claire has seen positivity rates hover below 5 percent for the past six weeks. In the past two weeks, while the number of positive cases has skyrocketed across the state, UW-Eau Claire has conducted close to 2,000 tests (1,977) with an average positivity rate of 1.6 percent (32 cases). “The results are a testament to our students and their efforts to follow the Blugold Flight Plan,” said Dr. Warren Anderson, vice chancellor for equity, diversity, inclusion and student affairs. “We are really proud of our students, and the hard work is paying off.”

Student voting information includes plans to stay safe during pandemic

UW-Eau Claire students are encouraged to vote early to avoid congestion at polling sites as Election Day is only five days away. Students can find important information about registration, absentee voting and in-person voting on campus on Nov. 3 on the university [webpage devoted to student voting](#). Due to the pandemic, Zorn Arena will be utilized for in-person voting for students who live on campus.

Blugold Dining seeks input through campuswide survey

Though the pandemic has affected dining on campus in many ways, Blugold Dining is conducting a survey to gather feedback regarding menu preferences and to find out ways to better serve campus. The survey takes only a few minutes to complete, and all faculty, staff and students are encouraged to take a little time to share their thoughts about dining on campus. You can [find the survey here](#).

‘Blugolds Care’ program supports students in isolation, quarantine

Housing and Residence Life’s “Blugolds Care” program connect students in quarantine and isolation with a volunteer from the Blugold community to assist with everyday tasks. This program is available to all members of the Blugold community in the immediate Eau Claire area. Housing and Residence Life will manage the information collected and pair a volunteer with a person requesting assistance. Volunteers will not provide medical advice and will not come into direct contact with the student they are assisting. UW-Eau Claire students requesting assistance must have tested positive for COVID-19 or be awaiting test results and currently in quarantine. People are asked to sign up to [request assistance or serve as a volunteer](#).

Link to new COVID-19 public exposures added to university update page

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department is sharing COVID-19 exposure notices with the community to ensure the public is aware of places where individuals may have come in contact with a person who has tested positive for the virus. The exposure notices are updated regularly, and you can [find a link on the university’s COVID-19 Updates page](#) that links directly to the running list of public exposure notices.

More than 10,000 Blugolds using Blugold Protocol to monitor their health

More than 10,000 Blugolds have downloaded, registered and are using the Blugold Protocol app, and if



you have not yet added the self-monitoring health app to your phone, now is the time to take a few easy steps to stay safe. If you are an iPhone user, visit the [Apple Store](#) and download the app. If you have an Android device, visit the [Google Play store](#). If you don't use a mobile device, you can visit

<https://blugold.selfmonitoringapp.com>, save it as a favorite and log your information in the desktop solution. As a Blugold Protocol user, you are asked to choose one platform — mobile app or desktop solution — to log your information. Daily entry of your health status is required, and this includes weekends and holidays throughout the 2020-21 academic year. All students, faculty and staff of UW-Eau Claire are required to log their daily symptoms in the Blugold Protocol app. This includes days when you are not expecting to come to campus in Eau

Claire, Marshfield or Barron County. You can find more information on the Blugold Protocol App on the [university webpage](#). The app will notify you if your symptoms indicate that you should consult with Student Health Service or your health care provider. For Blugolds in programs that do not require you to attend any function on campus (e.g., 100% online programs), you are excused from using the Blugold Protocol this semester.

COVID-19 resources online

If you want up-to-date information on COVID-19 and UW-Eau Claire's response to the pandemic, visit the university's [COVID-19 Updates webpage](#), where you can find past editions of this newsletter, video messages from Chancellor Schmidt and important emails that have been shared with campus.

Vital Statistics

(as of noon Thursday, Oct. 29)

Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

Worldwide: 45,075,030

United States: 9,156,294

Wisconsin: 210,126

Eau Claire County: 3,531

Barron County: 1,132

Wood County: 1,708

[UW-Eau Claire COVID-19 Dashboard, updated daily](#)

Look for the next Blugold Flight Plan newsletter on Nov. 5.

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