

Dear College of Idaho Community,

We are writing on behalf of the Presidents and the Executive Council to convey details related to the 2021 Fall Semester. It is our hope that this announcement provides ample time for faculty, staff and students to make necessary adjustments regarding course delivery, housing and other important aspects of College operations.

Since November 1, 2020, the College has been operating in accordance with Phase 4 in the [Updated Re-Opening Plan](#), allowing for expanded co-curricular activities, but maintaining online and hybrid instruction. The possibility of movement to Phase 5 has been under careful consideration since that time. Phase 5 would mark a return to in-person instruction as our primary teaching mode, along with more opportunities for in-person co-curricular gatherings, expanded residential capacity, and more flexible travel options. The metrics for advancing to this phase include not only demonstrable success in achieving safety in Phase 4, but also the availability of an effective vaccine, effective medications to combat COVID-19 once contracted, a reliable timeframe for acquisition of herd immunity, and/or a dramatic reduction in the incidence of infection at the College and surrounding area.

There is good news to be found in reviewing these metrics: The College has succeeded in limiting the spread of infection on campus, community spread rates and hospitalizations are trending downward, and the distribution of two vaccines is underway, all of which provide promise for herd immunity by the fall. As a result of these considerations, **Presidents Brigham and Everett, in consultation with the Executive Council, have determined that the College will transition to Phase 5 for the start of the 2021 Fall Semester. Please note that the College will remain in Phase 4 through the remainder of the 2021 Spring and May Terms.**

However, there is also compelling reason for continued caution, as new Covid-19 variants are identified that may be more easily transmitted and/or resistant to current vaccines. For this reason, the College will also be engaged in contingency planning as we closely monitor conditions over the next few months.

Additional details will be provided for specific populations within our community in coming weeks. In the meantime, we wish everyone safe and productive Spring and May Terms!

Sincerely,

David Douglass and Paul Bennion