Dear Students, Staff, and Faculty,

Thank you for your response to our request for your COVID-19 vaccination status. We received responses from 94% of our residential community (students, staff, faculty). We can report that at least 89% of our residential community members have been vaccinated. We also note that 100% of our faculty members, including adjunct faculty, are vaccinated. Because of the high response rate and the high percentage of people who are vaccinated, we will not be requiring weekly testing for those who are not vaccinated. We will also take our high vaccination rates into consideration as we make decisions regarding safety policies and protocols. However, we ask that everyone continue to monitor their symptoms and, if not feeling well, stay home, and to follow other health protocols like social distancing, mask wearing, hand washing, etc.

We also recommend that you get tested if you experience symptoms or if you get in contact with a person who is sick and are exposed to the virus. Here are some places that offer free testing:

- Rite Aid https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/services/covid-19-testing
- Walgreens https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/testing?ban=covid_vanity Testing
- Cherry Health https://www.cherryhealth.org/donate/events/covid-19-information/

As COVID-19 and the Delta variant continues to rise in West Michigan and beyond, as community transmission of COVID-19 is high in Kent County, and as Kent County is noting a significant rise in cases and in risk for COVID-19, we want to remain diligent to maintain a safe, healthy learning community. The CDC recommends everyone in areas of substantial or high transmission wear a face mask in indoor public places, regardless of vaccination status, so we will be asking everyone to follow this recommendation on the Seminary campus until the transmission rate lowers sufficiently, with the exceptions noted in our August 13, 2021 Update.

We also note that we share our campus with Calvin University, including Hekman Library and, while the classroom renovations continue, Hiemenga Hall. When on Calvin University’s campus and in their buildings, we will follow their guidelines and protocols.

Thank you for your responses and for your continued efforts to keep our community safe and healthy through the pandemic.

For the COVID-19 Response Team,
Margaret Mwenda and Jeff Sajdak, Co-Chairs