



## HEALTHY TOGETHER

The holiday break is here, except for a few last exams and papers. No doubt all of us could benefit from a long winter's nap.

Media outlets are paying closing attention to the rapidly accelerating numbers of cases associated with the omicron variant of COVID. From the early reports, it appears to be significantly more contagious than the delta variant, but perhaps not as severe. In coming weeks, we will know more about patterns of omicron infection related to age, vaccination, previous infection, and so on.

At this time, we do not anticipate the need for comprehensive testing protocols when students and employees return to campus in January. However, the situation could change rapidly, as we have seen in South Africa these last 10 days. **As noted last week, we will monitor relevant COVID metrics as well as federal regulations and provide updated information Dec. 29 regarding any return-to-campus testing protocols.**

Warm wishes for the remaining weeks of the year.

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## COVID BY THE NUMBERS

**BERRY: Percentage fully vaccinated: 83% students, 97% full-time faculty, 85% full-time staff.**

**Moderate to low / Lime Green level of risk.**

For week of: Dec 2 – 8: 1 student case

Last week. Nov 25 – Dec 1: 1 employee case

Number of active cases at Berry: 2

**ROME/FLOYD COUNTY:**

**Moderate / Yellow level of risk.**

Percentage of population fully vaccinated: 43%

Compared to GA overall: 50%

20 COVID cases in Floyd and Redmond hospitals.

Compared to 207 on Sept. 8 and 17 in mid-July

5.3% positive tests in last 14 days

Compared to 4.5% in GA overall

151/100,000 new COVID cases in the last 14 days

Compared to 112/100,000 in GA overall

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If you have any COVID-related questions, send an email to

[covid-19questions@berry.edu](mailto:covid-19questions@berry.edu). Our staff will get back to you in a timely manner.