

COVID-19 data for the spring semester continues to trend in a very promising direction on campus. There are currently just 21 active cases connected to campus – 18 students and 3 employees – while available capacity at Canyon and Cypress halls for quarantine/isolation sits at 97% and 95%, respectively.

This is especially heartening in that we have not yet seen any spike related to Super Bowl gatherings roughly 10 days ago. We want to thank everyone for their continued diligence in adhering to COVID safety protocols on campus.

We also want to thank those of you who have volunteered to assist at GCU's Point of Dispensing (POD) vaccine site at 27th Avenue. Since opening to the public on Jan. 26, we have administered 19,996 doses of the vaccine and are now exceeding 1,200 shots per day, with a high of 1,597 on Feb. 16. We are truly making a difference in our surrounding community, especially for those in our most vulnerable populations, and have become part of the COVID-19 solution in Arizona.

Given the lessening number of COVID cases both on campus and in our community, we are taking steps to make certain campus activities more accessible to students. We are opening up activities related to student clubs and club sports. Those involved will be receiving more information on those protocols in the coming days.

After consulting with medical experts and specialists, we recently increased attendance at basketball games in GCU Arena to 13% of capacity, with no evidence it has resulted in increased community spread of the coronavirus. While NCAA rules require 12 feet of distance between spectators and the court, we provide 20-24 feet of separation. And those closest to the court – members of the Cheer and Dance teams – are regularly tested for COVID-19.

As we stated in [this previous message](#), we're planning to return to full in-person instruction in the fall semester and will be adding additional in-person and online classes during the summer to ensure students stay on track in completing their academic programs.

We're not completely out of the woods yet. We're monitoring the various COVID variants that are now present and it's important for students to continue to follow current health/safety protocols. But there is light at the end of the tunnel.