

UWS reopens community COVID-19 test site; testing in MWC

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In a message to the campus community on Feb. 9, Chancellor Renée Wachter announced the return of community COVID-19 testing to the UWS campus. The site, which originally closed in January, offers self-administered Abbot BinaxNow antigen tests which provide results in approximately 15 minutes.

The re-opening of the site took place this past Monday, Feb. 15. Krisi Patterson, the Director of Campus Recreation who also coordinates testing operations with eTrue-North, noted that the first day saw 82 tests administered over the four hours of operation. This number is lower than the average of 116/day prior to closing,



Community members can self-administer nasal swab tests under supervision from eTrue-North personnel. The site is open from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Photo by Jean Germaino

and much lower than the 200+/day that the site saw during its peak.

"We are set up to test up to 100 people a day, [but] we highly recommend that people set up vouch-

ers in advance as we can't guarantee being able to test walk-ins," Patterson noted.

The site was reopened after the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) completed an assessment of COVID-19 community testing facilities statewide. "Based on their findings and our proven ability to conduct mass testing in a safe, efficient and friendly environment, DHS requested that we reopen our COVID-19 community testing site. We are honored to continue serving our community in this capacity and to help the state meet its COVID-19 testing needs," said UWS Dean of Students Harry

Anderson in a statement.

The site was moved from its original location inside the Mertz Mortorelli Gym to a new location inside the Marcovich Wellness Center. "The location was moved to limit the inconvenience to students," noted Patterson. "This is a low-traffic part of the building where students should be able to avoid contact with those getting tested."

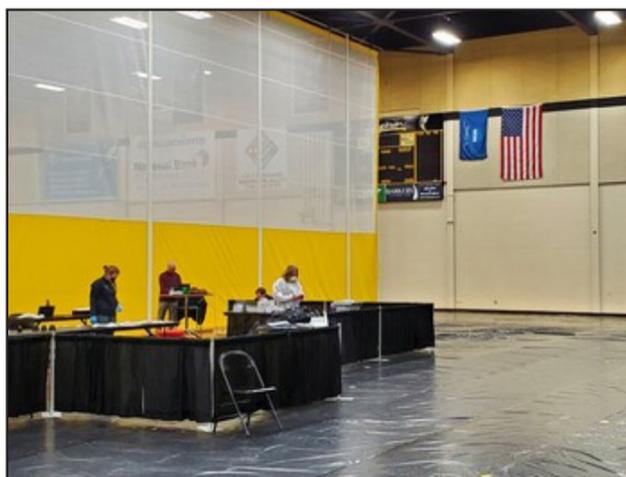
Patterson also noted that community members are not always aware of the testing options in their area, referencing the testing site at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC), which is closed on Mondays and

Tuesdays. "Most people are grateful for the opportunity to have it [testing] here...we're expecting some people to cross the bridge those days."

Parking is also being designated for the community testing center. 10 spots in the front row of lot 13 near the MWC will be blocked off for the testing site. Parking Services asks that students and employees do not park between the sandwich boards on the sidewalk, warning that tickets will be issued to permit holders found in these spots.

While the testing site is open for the community, both students and employees can receive free COVID-19 testing in the Yellowjacket Union. Information, including registration and FAQs can be found on the University's spring 2021 micro-site at www.uwsuper.edu/spring2021.

The community testing site is open Monday through Friday from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. The site is open to anyone five years of age or older, regardless of symptoms. More information, including how to register for and schedule an appointment, can be found online at www.uwsuper.edu/covidtest.



The old community testing site inside the Mertz Mortorelli Gym. The old site closed down in January, testing 200+ people/day at its peak. File Photo by Promethean Staff

Renovations completed at Holden Fine and Applied Arts Center

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Despite the COVID-19 pandemic impacting many parts of day-to-day operations, several renovation projects were able to be completed at the Holden Fine and Applied Arts Center (HFAC). These projects including updating gallery spaces, expanding and updated classrooms and improving overall access.

One of the largest projects was renovating a highly visible space on the second floor adjacent to the main entrance into a project gallery. To create the gallery, three storage and administrative spaces were renovated. The new space includes a see-through glass display case to showcase artwork.

In a statement, Anne

Dugan, senior lecture of visual arts, said, "The new project gallery allows us to send a message to visitors that this is a building for art - right as they walk through the doors."

This new gallery space replaced a third floor location, which was converted into a large, reconfigurable classroom. These kinds of classroom are few and far between in HFAC, which has previously been limited to smaller-capacity classrooms.

In addition to a renovation of the old gallery space, three previously underutilized spaces were converted into a larger, configurable art education classroom with a SMARTBoard and space that emulates the educational facilities that

students will work in after graduation.

The previous media lab was moved to a larger location that features more work stations and active learning capabilities. The space also includes windows to the main hallway to showcase student work.

Additional projects included the building's only sloped classroom. The old projection room was removed to accommodate handicap-accessible seating, two rows of seating were removed to provide a center aisle, and walls were removed at the front of the classroom to provide a more open instructional space.

The theater green room was remodeled and reconfigured into two adjacent spaces that will



The new display gallery near the second floor westward entrance to HFAC. The old third floor gallery was reconverted into a large classroom space. File Photo by Promethean Staff

better serve students during performances. The new layout allows for separate spaces for quick costume changes and provides amenities including a new makeup counter. The updated green room also includes a kitchen area, allowing additional efficiency.

"The faculty and staff of the Communicating Arts Department are particularly excited about the renovations to the media lab and the backstage area known as the Green Room," said Brent Notbohm, chair of the communicating arts department, in a statement.

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