Dear students, faculty, and staff,

Now that we are receiving results from the first full week of classes, I am writing to thank you for your attention to COVID-19 safety measures on campus and everywhere you go. The positivity rate for the week ending yesterday, January 23, is a very promising 2.5% among 12,693 students, faculty, and staff tested at UVM.

Once again, the UVM community has rallied together to keep our campus as healthy as possible: 3,979 of you picked up KN95 masks from the Davis Center, and with a week to go before our January 31 deadline, 72% of students have submitted their booster information.

Now, we need to keep all of that positive momentum going as we continue through the peak of the Omicron surge and into the rest of the semester.

Do not let your guard down. Please continue to wear a proper mask when indoors and remind those around you to do the same. Avoid large, indoor gatherings that do not require masks. If you believe you may have been exposed or have any symptoms, get tested. The latest information about masks and testing is available on the UVM Forward website, including how to pick up KN95 masks.

With your attention to these safety measures and the UVM community’s commitment to one another’s health, we can all look forward to additional favorable test results and a successful spring semester.

With gratitude,

Gary Derr
Vice President for Operations and Public Safety