



## UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS

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November 30, 2020

Dear Prospective Students, Parents, and Loved Ones of the Spring 2021 Rome Class,

This is a follow-up to my letter of early this month. In that letter I detailed the developing-story of Italy's COVID-19 epidemic and laid out our planning for spring 2021. This brief letter contains an update on COVID-19 developments in Italy and adds some important, encouraging information about spring 2021.

- **CURRENT COVID-19 PICTURE IN ITALY.** At the time of my letter of early November, the number of active new cases was still on the rise. But since that letter a combination of new government action and increased civic awareness has brought down the number of new cases from around 40,000 to 20,000 a day and thereby leveled the curve of currently active cases. Recovery rates are much higher in this second wave of the epidemic than in the first: roughly 93% of all infected patients across the population fully recover from COVID-19 as opposed to rates of 50-60% during the first wave of last spring, while the young (20-29) fully recover at a rate of 99.09%. ICU units are still under some pressure in some parts of Italy today, notably in the north where occupation rates of 60% of full bed capacity are seen, though in our region of Lazio the numbers have been fairly steady for weeks now in the 30-40% of full-capacity range. For more information on historic and current figures, see [here](#) (English only) and [here](#) (Italian only). The Italian government will issue another executive order in the coming week regarding COVID-19 measures going forward. A bit like the U.S. government's approach to the Thanksgiving holiday, it is likely that the government will ask its citizens to make sacrifices of their mobility during the Christmas holidays so as to keep the curve flat and avoid another outbreak in spring.
- **SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE FALL 2020 SEMESTER.** Despite the challenges of the major second wave of COVID-19 in October and November, we managed to finish the fall 2020 semester in respectable form. All classes were completed successfully on site. Students ended up having three long weekends free to travel in Italy, all of them subsidized by university travel funds. And no one got sick again after our early-October outbreak of COVID-19 on campus. The last days of the semester were intense and emotional in a very positive way. Our informal exit surveys with students indicate that despite some of the trials they faced and sacrifices they made, their general sense of achievement and satisfaction with the fall semester was high, if not soaring.
- **IMPORTANT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS LIFTED FOR THE SPRING 2021 SEMESTER.** In a very positive development for prospective students and our program, the Italian Ministry of Health has just issued an ordinance (no. 294, dated November 24, 2020) allowing travellers the opportunity to avoid an initial 14-day quarantine period upon arrival in Italy if they meet the following requirements:
  - Airport of departure to Italy is either JFK (NY), Newark (NJ), Atlanta (GA), Frankfurt (Germany), or Munich (Germany).
  - Airport of arrival is Rome (FCO) airport.
  - Travellers have in their possession a document certifying a negative result on a

Covid-19 molecular or antigen test carried out no earlier than 48 hours before departure; tests done at the airport itself are acceptable.

→ Travellers agree to submit to a COVID-19 test upon arrival at Rome (FCO) and test negative.

This new measure is in effect from November 27, 2020 through February 15, 2021. Assuming that it is not repealed between now and the anticipated date of student arrivals on Sunday, January 17, 2021, we will be able to conduct our classes, Masses and other on-campus and off-campus activities free of an initial quarantine period from day one of the spring 2021 semester. That's great news for all of us indeed!

To sum up the brief update you see above, our plans for the spring 2021 semester remain unchanged, except to accommodate the good news on quarantines and now firming up all of our spring 2021 activities. On this last point, you can expect an updated semester calendar and a letter detailing other important planning details by mid-December.

In the meantime, I wish you all a belated Happy Thanksgiving holiday and invite you to write us with whatever questions or concerns you may have. I can be reached in Rome at [phatlie@udallas.edu](mailto:phatlie@udallas.edu). Our Director of Rome and Summer Programs in Irving, Mrs. Rebecca Davies, can be reached at [bdavies@udallas.edu](mailto:bdavies@udallas.edu).

Sincerely Yours,



Peter Hatlie, Dean, Director, VP, Prof. of Classics