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Good morning everyone,

I hope this update finds you well and healthy. I have a significant milestone to report:

Lowell Visitor Program fully reopened

We closed the Lowell public program and sent everybody off Mars Hill on March 13, 2020, so tomorrow is the final day of Year Two of the disruption and uncertainty Covid-19 has imposed on our lives. As this second year wraps, all the AZ case numbers continue to move in the right direction, and we have this week fully reopened our visitor program without restrictions or vax/negative test proof. Of course, our staff and guests are welcome to mask, distance, and follow other safety practices as their comfort level dictates. And of course, the pandemic is by no means over, so we will keep a careful eye on the data and hope that no further programmatic changes are needed.

Our decision to reopen fully has been endorsed by multiple experts, including Dave Engelthaler at TGen. I'm sincerely grateful to Dave for all his input and advice during Covid.

It has been a long two years; and in recent weeks, it's been agonizing to see the world start to emerge from one madness, only to descend into another. I do think following a scientific and data-driven approach in responding to Covid has served us well; and I believe from the bottom of my heart that the scientific, analytical approach serves well in any context, from keeping a steady course in our own lives to making the entire world a better place. And perhaps at the most fundamental level, that's what Lowell's mission is all about. We're now back fully up and running on pursuing that mission of communicating our astronomers' discoveries, the wonders of the Universe, and the value of science to professional and public audiences alike. It's a good thing, and I take happiness and heart in it, on this lovely sunny day in Flagstaff.

Jeff Hall
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