

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
February 14, 2022

### **Impact of COVID-19 (#770)**

Dr. Carranco compared data for the week ending on February 13, 2022, to data for the week ending February 6, 2022.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 18,494 to 9,833 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 21.9 to 13.9 percent.
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased from 541 to 198 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 20 to 13.5 percent.
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts decreased from 2,177 to 593 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 25.9 to 19.2 percent.
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts decreased from 280 to 243 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate for the week ending February 6, 2022, was 25.7 percent. By Cabinet meeting, Hays had yet to release the positivity rate for the week ending February 13, 2022.
- In Texas, hospitalizations decreased from 10,103 to 7,615.

On the Texas State campuses, there were 62 positives out of 870 tests for a positivity rate of 7.1 percent.

COVID-19 transmission levels, as defined by the CDC, in Texas as well as Hays, Williamson, and Travis counties remain "high."

In summary, COVID-19 case counts, positivity rates, and hospitalizations continue their downward trend. Omicron transmission levels should continue their downward trend through the end of February. Layered mitigation measures should continue until community transmission levels reach "moderate" transmission: positivity rates of less than eight percent and greater than five percent; and less than 50 cases but more than 10 cases per 100,000 residents. When moderate levels of transmission are sustained at Texas State, then the Student Health Center will examine sunseting contact tracing.

The reduction or elimination of mitigation measures will likely be based on local conditions and personal risk assessments. The CDC is working on guidance for discontinuation of mitigation measures. Some states, local governments, and school districts are already choosing to stop some mitigation measures.

Recent studies show that vaccine effectiveness after a booster dose wanes over time. Against Omicron, vaccine effectiveness in preventing hospitalization drops from 91 percent at two

months to 78 percent at four months. Since Coronavirus will continue to circulate for several years, it is likely that boosters will be needed periodically in the future.

Pfizer has decided to defer its request for approval of a vaccine for children six months to four years old. The data on a two-shot regimen showed a significant rate of breakthrough infections. It is waiting until data on a three-shot regimen is completed. Approval will likely be sought in April.

At Texas State, testing demand has decreased; thus, messages promoting proactive testing have resumed.

### **Board of Regents' Review (#500)**

President's Cabinet and guests Ms. Brandi Martinez, Staff Council Chair, Mr. Andrew Gryce, Student Government President, and Mr. Jayme Blaschke, Public Information Specialist, reviewed the agenda items for the February 17-18, 2022, Board of Regents meeting.

### **Board of Regents News Release (#626)**

Mr. Blaschke reviewed possible topics for inclusion in the news release on the current Board of Regents meeting. Cabinet members approved a news release to highlight Dr. Ting Liu's Regents' Teacher Award.

### **Budget Cycle (#160)**

Mr. Algoe reviewed the Budget Development Calendar for fiscal year 2023.

### **President's Update (#556)**

President Trauth discussed the process for hiring the Vice President for Institutional Inclusive Excellence, and asked that Cabinet members be fully engaged in the process.

The President shared that the Department of Labor is exploring increasing the federal overtime salary threshold. Mr. Algoe agreed to keep the Cabinet updated on this issue.

### **Significant Issues (#01)**

Mr. Algoe explained that the Hilltop construction cost has increased substantially in two years, in part, because of inflation (labor costs have risen), and the construction market in San Marcos is higher than most other areas in Texas.

Mr. Coryell provided a recap of the recent success of both men's and women's basketball and summarized the week's activities for all spring sports.

Mr. Coryell announced two personnel changes: Chris Kutz is the new Associate Athletic Director for Communication, and Steve Holeman is the new women's soccer coach.

Dr. Hernandez announced that Bobcat Build registration has opened.

Mr. Algoe discussed the Total Contract Manager will begin monitoring cumulative spending of contracts to determine when spending approaches Board of Regents' approved spending limits.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on February 23, 2022.