

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
April 12, 2021

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of March 29, 2021, to data from the week of April 5, 2021. Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 2,086 to 1,962 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased slightly from 4.9 to 5.5 percent.
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts increased slightly from 49 to 50, and the average daily positivity rates increased slightly from 3.9 to 4.1 percent.
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts increased from 20 to 37 cases per day. By meeting time, Hays county had not reported positivity rate data for the week of April 5, 2021.

As of April 9, 2021, there were 146 active cases at Texas State; four students were in on-campus quarantine and 12 students were in isolation.

For the week of April 5, 2021, at Texas State, 59 out of 1,010 tests returned positive for a positivity rate of 5.8 percent, up slightly from the previous week.

For the same week, The University of Texas at Austin reported 25 positive results out of 2,562 tests for a positivity rate of one percent. By meeting time, Texas A&M University had yet to report numbers for the week of April 5, 2021.

Texas State case counts have increased over the last few weeks. This increase was expected due to spring break and does not indicate a surge. The case counts are expected to remain elevated for a few weeks following Easter, and then decline thereafter. Likewise, positivity rates have increased slightly, while testing rates have decreased significantly -- by about 30 percent. With fewer university community members being tested, the increase in positivity rates is likely to be an overestimation of the local transmission rate.

There continues to be no evidence of transmission on Texas State campuses-not in classrooms, offices, nor residence halls.

Texas State's approach to transitioning employees back to in-person work during the summer months was discussed. The pandemic temporary workplace modification that were announced on March 18, 2020, will end on May 31, 2021, and the expectation is that staff, administrators, and student employees will return June 1, 2021. As stated in policy, all telecommuting requests must be approved by the employee's respective Vice President or Director of Athletics. Certain units, where people work in tight spaces, may need to work with facilities to identify additional office space.

The decision to return staff and administrators, who have been working at home, to in-person work was made based on several factors:

- Preparing for the majority of students to return to campuses in fall will take a lot of preparation and work that must begin in early summer.
- Transmission levels are lower.
- Adults have an opportunity to be fully vaccinated prior to June 1, 2021.
- The health and safety measures, including face coverings, physical distancing, and room capacity restrictions, remain in effect.

For fall 2021, the current plan is for room capacity to be set at 100 percent.

To prepare for the summer and fall semesters, two President's Cabinet Retreats have been scheduled for April 16, 2021, and May 11, 2021.

Dr. Carranco provided Cabinet members with a vaccination update. To date, 4,245 students, faculty, and staff have been vaccinated during university vaccination events. On April 13, 2021, about another 1,500 will be vaccinated, bringing the total to nearly 6,000. Weekly events to vaccinate about 1,500 to 1,800 community members per week are planned for the end of the semester. This number may change, however, as the demand for the vaccine is tailing off. During the summer months, weekly vaccination events for 200 to 300 community members are likely to be scheduled.

Dr. Carranco attempted to identify a third party vendor to disseminate the vaccine on the Round Rock Campus, to no avail. Thus, the Student Health Center staff on the San Marcos Campus will travel to the Round Rock Campus during the week of April 19, 2021, to deliver about 300 doses.

Dr. Carranco has been discussing with Hays county the possibility of hosting a joint event on the San Marcos Campus on April 22, 2021.

Messaging encouraging the community members to get vaccinated will include its benefits. For example, those who get vaccinated:

- Are less likely to get seriously ill or die from COVID-19.
- Are able to visit with others who are fully vaccinated without masking or physically distancing.
- If exposed to a positive case, do not have to test or quarantine unless they are symptomatic.
- Do not have to miss class, practice, or work if exposed to a positive case.
- Do not have to test before or after domestic travel.
- Do not have to quarantine after domestic or international travel.
- Do not have to test before international travel unless required by the destination country.
- Are less likely to spread infection to others.

Strategies to overcoming the cultural barriers to the vaccine were discussed.

Dr. Lloyd and guest Dr. Mary Ellen Cavitt discussed the COVID-19 safety protocol for overnight camps in light of Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order No. GA-35 relating to COVID-19 vaccines and the protection of Texans' private health information. Texas State cannot require students, faculty, or staff to get vaccinated nor to produce evidence of a negative PCR test. Summer camp safety protocols will be revised accordingly.

The safety protocol for summer camps was amended to allow meal service options in addition to boxed meals and wrapped snacks. Chartwells Dining follows strict protocols to ensure that meals are served in a safe manner. Cabinet approved serving campers their meals cafeteria-style.

Dr. Hernandez discussed the Department of Housing and Residential Life's spring move out schedule and the summer health and safety guidelines. Given the low number of students expected to live in on-campus housing during the summer terms, one floor of a residence hall will be reserved for isolation and quarantine.

Inclusion and Diversity (#747)

Dr. Silva initiated the discussion on the final selection from recommendations submitted by the Texas State University Naming Task Force. In the spirit of inclusiveness and celebration and recognizing the significant contributions to Texas State of distinguished individuals from the Hispanic/Latinx and Black communities, the Task Force was created in fall 2020 to rename two residence halls on the San Marcos Campus and name two streets on the Round Rock Campus. The process was inclusive, engaging the university and surrounding communities. Approximately 40 nominations were received by the Task Force. Two subcommittees conducted interviews with individuals that provided nominations. The full Task Force then reviewed and scored each applicant using a Task Force-constructed matrix and the scores were calculated. Four Black nominees and five Hispanic/Latinx nominees were advanced to the Council for Inclusive Excellence for review and feedback. The nominees were then forwarded to the President's Cabinet who reviewed the nominees and endorsed the following:

- Renaming San Gabriel Hall to Maria Elena Zamora O'Shea Hall, after Maria Elena Zamora O'Shea, who was the first known Latinx student to integrate Texas State in 1906.
- Renaming Angelina Hall to First Five Freedom Hall after Dana Jean Smith, Helen Jackson Franks, Georgia Hoodye Cheatham, Gloria Odoms Powell, and Mabeleen Washington Wozniak, who were the first black students to integrate Texas State in 1963.
- Naming one of the unnamed roads on the Round Rock Campus -- Adolfo Barrera Drive - - after Dr. Adolfo "Sonny" Barrera for his work in the broad area of multicultural programming.
- Naming one of the unnamed roads on the Round Rock Campus -- Elvin Holt Drive -- after Dr. Elvin Holt, the first black professor in the Department of English, for his work in the broad area of multicultural curriculum development.

Mr. Algoe will prepare motions to be taken to the May 2021 TSUS Board of Regents meeting.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth and Provost Bourgeois provided a recap of the recent President's Academic Advisory Group and Faculty Senate meeting. Consensus was that all are looking forward to in-person instruction and student interactions this fall. President Trauth announced that the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training Task Force recommendations will be presented to President's Cabinet on May 3, 2021.

Significant Issues (#01)

Mr. Pierce announced that migration of the student information system (Banner) to Ellucian's cloud-hosted services will begin on April 14, 2021.

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Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on May 12, 2021.