

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
February 7, 2022

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Dr. Carranco compared data for the week ending on February 6, 2022, to data for the week ending January 30, 2022.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 30,627 to 18,494 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 29.4 to 21.9 percent.
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased from 976 to 541, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 25.1 to 20 percent.
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts increased from 1,738 to 2,177 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 29.1 to 25.9 percent.
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts decreased from 532 to 280 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate for the week ending January 30, 2022, was 32.7 percent. By Cabinet meeting, Hays had yet to release the positivity rate for the week ending February 6, 2022.
- In Texas, hospitalizations decreased from 12,392 to 10,103.

On the Texas State campuses, there were 101 positives out of 892 tests for a positivity rate of 11.3 percent. (Note. Data does not include test results from MD Diagnostic. Results are still pending.)

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 are declining, indicating that the Omicron surge is subsiding. The downward trend should continue through the month of February. Layered mitigation measures should continue until transmission levels reach "moderate" with a positivity rate of less than eight percent.

Coronavirus is not going to be eliminated. It will continue to circulate for several years. However, at some point in the coming months, the CDC should provide guidance on when mitigation measures can be discontinued.

The FDA is evaluating Pfizer's request for approval of a two-shot regimen of vaccine for children six months to four years old. It is likely that the vaccine will be approved in the latter part of February.

Dr. Carranco discussed the latest variant and the importance of vaccinations as they offer protection against current and future variants.

Testing remains on both campuses. MD Diagnostic is offering antigen and PCr testing. The Student Health Center is making at home antigen tests available to patrons of the Child Development Center.

Provost Bourgeois and Dr. Hernandez discussed initiatives to reengage faculty and students in face-to-face instruction based on retention data. Provost Bourgeois discussed workshops sponsored by Faculty Development focused on reengaging students in face-to-face learning and starting the semester successfully.

- January 14, 2022: "FAQuilty Think Tank" addressed starting the semester successfully online.
- January 25, 2022: "Back to the Future: Re-engaging Students in the Post-Pandemic Classroom."
- January 28, 2022: Let's Do Lunch, "Building Student Resilience Through Metacognition."
- February 11, 2022: Let's Do Lunch, "Back in the Saddle! Let's Talk About the First Week Back in the Classroom."

Dr. Hernandez summarized activities for reengaging students:

- The Student Recreation Center and the LBJ Student Center are both being well utilized.
- Student organization meetings and events for spring are increasing.
- Dr. Fred Bonner from Prairie View A&M recently visited with Dr. Hernandez's staff to discuss best practices for reengaging students.
- The Division of Student Affairs is planning for Bobcat Build and Bobcat Pause.
- The Student Success Executive Committee is taking a hard look at the first year experience.

Staff Council

Dr. Lloyd discussed a recent letter to University Administration from Staff Council. President Trauth would like to respond to their inquiry at a future Staff Council meeting.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth announced that Dr. Ekin has been appointed as the Presidential Fellow for a second year given that Texas State is in a presidential transition. In his second year as Presidential Fellow, Dr. Ekin will continue to support the university-level data science initiatives. He is currently conducting data analysis to support student success and retention improvement efforts.

President Trauth reviewed her calendar for the week.

President Trauth lauded the Department of Athletics for a successful weekend of sports. Mr. Coryell recapped the weekend events and announced that Lee-Anne Blake posted a school record in the women's mile run at the Charlie Thomas Invitational hosted by Texas A&M University.

Significant Issues (#01)

Provost Bourgeois announced that 13 Texas State students and recent alumni have been recommended by the Fulbright National Screening Committee as semifinalists for the Fulbright U. S. Student Program's 2022-2023 competition cycle. This is the largest group of semifinalists ever for Texas State.

Provost Bourgeois announced that Texas State has received \$1.5 million from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a new data science credential program offered in partnership with Sam Houston State University.

Mr. Algoe discussed how facilities fared during the previous week's winter freeze.

The State's new formula for funding universities was recently released for comment.

Mr. Algoe announced that Legislative Appropriations Requests for the next Legislative Session are due in July 2022.

Dr. Ekin shared that he is meeting with key stakeholders to discuss results from his retention data analysis study.

Dr. Hernandez discussed lessons learned from the winter freeze and expressed appreciation of the new emergency management team.

Dr. Hernandez discussed the process for submitting Texas State's Regent Student Scholars applications.

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