

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
April 5, 2021

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

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of March 22, 2021, to data from the week of March 29, 2021. Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 2,143 to 2,086 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased slightly from five to 4.9 percent;
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased slightly from 51 to 49 cases per day, while the average daily positivity rate increased slightly from 3.8 to 3.9 percent; and
- By meeting time, Hays county had not reported data for the week of March 29, 2021.

As of April 2, 2021, there were 103 active cases at Texas State; three students were in on-campus quarantine and two students were in isolation. The increases in cases were expected due to spring break. However, the increase in case counts does not indicate a surge, and the numbers are expected to remain elevated following the Easter weekend, and then decline thereafter.

For the week of March 29, 2021, at Texas State, 42 out of 961 tests returned positive for a positivity rate of 4.4 percent, which is a 1.7 percentage point increase from the prior week. However, several hundred fewer tests were performed than previous weeks. With fewer university community members being tested, the increase in positivity rates is likely to be an overestimation of the local transmission rate.

For the same week, The University of Texas at Austin reported 35 positive results out of 2,850 tests for a positivity rate of 0.9 percent. By meeting time, Texas A&M University had yet to report its latest numbers; for the previous week, 178 positive results out of 4,868 tests for a positivity rate of 3.7 percent were reported.

To date, Texas State has received 300 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and 2,340 doses of the Pfizer vaccine from the state of Texas and 2,838 doses of the Pfizer vaccine from Hays county for a total of 5,478 doses of vaccine. During the first three events, 2,775 doses were administered. The next event is scheduled for April 9, 2021, and the remaining doses will be given then.

The number of weekly vaccine events will be reduced from two per week to one per week. Current data entry requirements by the state of Texas are time consuming, and thereby, require staff to work additional hours at night and on weekends. About 1,800 doses will be administered at each event. Dr. Carranco will explore whether Tuesday or Friday is the best day to host the event in terms of ensuring that adequate number of staff and volunteers are available.

Given the large Texas State population, Hays county is no longer requiring the vaccine transferred from Hays county to Texas State be made available to Hays county residents. The vaccine can be used strictly for the university community.

Each week, an invitation to register for the upcoming vaccine event is sent to all university community members in stages. Invitations are sent in batches in order of priority. President Trauth asked Cabinet members to encourage their employees that once they receive the email to register for vaccine. The email invitation will be made clear so that those receiving the email will understand that they are eligible for the vaccine.

Dr. Carranco and Mr. Algoe will identify a third-party vendor to hold a vaccine event on the Round Rock Campus. Dr. Carranco will also investigate the possibility of using a third-party vendor to deliver the vaccine on the weekends at the San Marcos Campus.

By the end of April 2021, vaccination events will move from the LBJSC Grand Ballroom to the Student Recreation Center.

“Get vaccinated” will be added to the health and safety guidelines on the Texas State Roadmap.

Guest Mr. Bobby Mason, Chief Compliance Officer, discussed the COVID-19 temporary workplace modification (TWPM) process. In preparation for fall 2020, Texas State implemented a process for assigning TWPM based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) list of medical conditions associated with high risk for severe illness from COVID-19. This resulted in 415 employees receiving TWPM (faculty=277, staff=138). These modifications were extended to spring 2021 and are scheduled to expire on May 31, 2021.

Based on federal guidance from the CDC, the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), aggressive federal, state, and local vaccination plans, benchmarking data, and Texas State's ability to provide a safe work environment, as well as in consultation The Texas State University System General Counsel, and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Emilio Carranco, it was recommended that:

- All TWPM's be allowed to expire on May 31, 2021;
- Individuals with TWPM's be informed no later than April 15, 2021, of this decision; of vaccination opportunities; and that employees with disabilities may request an accommodation via the ADA Coordinator per [UPPS 04.04.60 Workplace Accommodation](#), and employees with non-medical needs may request flexible schedules and remote work arrangements per [UPPS 04.04.01 General Workplace Policy](#); and
- The TWPM request process be discontinued.

Cabinet members approved the recommendation. Mr. Mason will send out notifications to individuals with TWPM. Dr. Lloyd and Ms. Pantlik will work with the Office of Human Resources to notify supervisors that the TWPM will not be extended beyond May 31, 2021. Though normal in-person university operations will begin to return beginning June 1, 2021, supervisors will be encouraged to make exceptions on a case by case basis and refer to [UPPS 04.04.60 Workplace Accommodation](#), and [UPPS 04.04.01 General Workplace Policy](#)

as they provide the flexible work arrangements recommended by the CDC and EEOC.

Provost Bourgeois stated that the teaching modalities for summer school were finalized in February 2021, when the rate of recovery from the pandemic was unclear. About 90 percent of classes will be offered online during the summer. Since then, the outlook has dramatically changed because of federal, state, and local efforts to increase availability of the vaccine. Though it is likely that our employees, who want a vaccine, will be able to obtain one before the end of May 2021, it is too late to change the schedule of classes for the summer.

### **Website Accessibility Plan (#731)**

Mr. Pierce and guest Mr. Evan Pickrel, Electronic Information Resources Accessibility Coordinator, provided an overview of link text in the context of universal design at Texas State. To help ensure that documents and electronic messages are barrier free for all users, link text should be descriptive of the content it describes. President Trauth asked that this information be shared widely. Cabinet members will share the information with their employees, and Ms. Sandy Pantlik will share the information with university communicators.

### **Inclusion and Diversity (#747)**

Dr. Silva continued the March 29, 2021, Cabinet meeting discussion on the recommendations from the Texas State University Naming Task Force. For the renaming of Angelina and San Gabriel Halls located on the San Marcos Campus, Cabinet members approved the "First Five" (Dana Jean Smith, Helen Jackson Franks, Georgia Hoodye Cheatham, Gloria Odoms, and Mabeleen Washington Wozniak)," who were the first black women to integrate Texas State in 1963, and Maria Elena Zamora O'Shea, who was the first known Latina student to integrate Texas State in 1906. For the naming of two unnamed streets on the Round Rock Campus, Cabinet members approved Dr. Elvin Holt and Dr. Adolfo "Sonny" Barrera for their work in the broad area of multicultural programming. President Trauth asked Dr. Silva to meet with the Naming Task Force to identify a hall name that best represents the "First Five" and to return to the next President's Cabinet meeting with their suggestions.

**RTA: 4/12/21 Finalize selection from recommendations submitted by the Texas State University Naming Task Force.**

### **Family Weekend (#687) and Homecoming Game (#179)**

Drs. Teis and Hernandez discussed the Homecoming dates and Family Weekend for fall 2021. Cabinet members approved Homecoming to take place the weekend of November 6, 2021, and Family Weekend to take place the weekend of October 9, 2021.

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

President Trauth discussed several upcoming in-person events that will be held at the Texas State San Marcos Campus, including the May 2021 Board of Regents meeting, separate dinners

honoring the men's basketball team and the women's volleyball team, and commencement. President Trauth discussed the safety measures that will be in place, including physical distancing, guest limits, and plated meals with four people at an eight-person table.

President Trauth announced that she tasked Dr. Sherri Benn with developing a comprehensive plan for how to prepare the university for the end of the Derek Chauvin trial. Elements of the plan were discussed, and Cabinet members provided recommendations.

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

Provost Bourgeois discussed the virtual visit by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges On-Site Reaffirmation Review Committee on March 29 to April 1, 2021. The reviewers found Texas State to be fully in compliance with all Principles of Accreditation, including the Quality Enhancement Plan. President Trauth expressed her appreciation for the hard work of those involved in the reaffirmation process.

Provost Bourgeois discussed the Faculty Senate and President's Academic Advisory Group meeting on April 7, 2021. Topics to be discussed include methods of course delivery and students' preference.

Provost Bourgeois reported that registration for New Student Orientation is much higher than it was the same time last year.

Provost Bourgeois provided an update on the awarding of financial aid.

Mr. Algoe announced that Kirby Lane has begun construction and is planning to be open later this summer.

Mr. Pierce announced that the migration of the student information system (Banner) to Ellucian's cloud-hosted services will take place in April 2021.

Dr. Teis announced that women's volleyball will play Utah Valley on April 14, 2021, in Omaha, Nebraska.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on April 19, 2021.