

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

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of July 5, 2021, to data from the week of June 28, 2021. Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts increased from 761 to 1,297 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from four to 7.3 percent;
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts increased from 13 to 18, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 1.5 to three percent;
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts increased from 32 to 51 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 2.3 to 4.3 percent; and
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts increased from 10 to 15 cases per day. (Note: The average daily positivity rate for the week of July 5, 2021, had not been released by meeting time).

Texas State had 10 positive tests out of 132 tests for a 7.6 percent positivity rate. As of July 12, 2021, there were 16 active cases at Texas State. In comparison to the latest test results from other Texas institutions, Texas A&M University had five positive tests out of 311 tests for a positivity rate of 1.6 percent, and The University of Texas at Austin had two positive tests out of 298 tests for a positivity rate of 0.7 percent.

Dr. Carranco reported that the Delta variant is becoming the dominant strain in the U. S. It presents like a cold (e.g., headache, sore throat, runny nose, and fever).

As of July 12, 2021, COVID-19 fully vaccinated rates of those who are 12 years of age and older are:

- 50.7 percent of the Texas population,
- 53 percent of Hays county,
- 59.4 percent of Williamson county,
- 61.2 percent of Travis county, and
- 56.1 percent of the U. S. population.

CDC data indicates that 18-24 year old individuals are lagging behind national averages, with only 41.5 percent fully vaccinated.

While the number of people who have received one dose of the vaccine is higher, it is important that people become fully vaccinated. For example, the efficacy rate of one dose of the Pfizer vaccine is 30 percent, while the efficacy rate of two doses of the Pfizer vaccine is 88 percent.

Dr. Carranco addressed “breakthrough” infections in people who are fully vaccinated. The currently authorized vaccines are all highly effective in preventing serious illness,

hospitalization, and death. They have varying levels of efficacy in preventing infection. Initially, when studies against the original COVID-19 U. S. strain were conducted, Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were shown to be about 95 percent efficacious in preventing infection. However, a recent study from the United Kingdom revealed Pfizer's efficacy drops to about 88 percent against the Delta variant. Likewise, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was initially shown to be 74 percent efficacious in preventing infection against the original COVID-19 U. S. strain, and recent data suggests that it remains effective against the Delta variant. Indeed, none of the vaccines are 100 percent effective in preventing infection. Thus, some persons may get infected despite being fully vaccinated. The bottom-line, however, is that the vaccine protects persons from the most serious outcomes. "Breakthrough" infections are likely to cause milder symptoms and are less likely to spread infection to others. In the event of a "breakthrough" infection, the infected person must still isolate for 10 days. Close contacts, who are not fully vaccinated, must quarantine for 10 days without testing or for seven days with testing; close contacts who are fully vaccinated will not have to quarantine or test unless they develop COVID symptoms. The Roadmap and the Student Health Center vaccination webpage will be updated accordingly.

Dr. Carranco discussed the status of a booster. At present, the CDC has not recommended a booster shot. Texas State will follow CDC protocol and is prepared to administer the booster shot should the guidance change.

Dr. Carranco will be meeting with the Health, Wellness, and Safety Work Group later in the week to review the current health and safety guidelines. The wearing of face coverings remains a major recommendation and face coverings will continue to be readily available at athletic events and in classrooms.

Commencement (#143)

Dr. Bourgeois and guest Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, discussed plans for three August commencement ceremonies that will be held in the University Events Center (UEC). Key differences from ceremonies held pre-COVID include:

- The processional into and out of the UEC will be limited to the platform party and faculty. Students will not process.
- Doctoral students will be hooded on the floor, not on the platform.
- No live music will be played.

Institutional Compliance (#557)

Dr. Lloyd, Dr. Silva, and guests Mr. Bobby Mason, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Compliance and Chief Compliance Officer, and Ms. Carole Clerie, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, discussed prevention and compliance online training for faculty and staff in an effort to create a safer, healthier, and more inclusive university community. Cabinet members approved expanding the EVERFI partnership to include 38 courses for faculty and staff.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth announced upcoming events for staff. The 2020 Staff Service Awards event will be held on July 12, 2021, the 2021 Staff Service Awards event will be held on July 19, 2021, and the President's Faculty and Staff Appreciation Luncheon will be held on the San Marcos Campus on July 14, 2021, and on the Round Rock Campus on July 16, 2021.

Significant Issues (#01)

Provost Bourgeois announced that New Student Orientation registration is 7,396 students, which is six percent higher than the same time in 2020. Advising staff are laser-focused on reaching out to first-year and continuing students to help them register for classes.

Dr. Hernandez reported housing contracts continue to remain robust. Currently, there are 6,021 contracts, which constitutes 101 percent of capacity.

Dr. Hernandez announced that Bobcat Preview is currently accepting event submissions for university offices, departments, student organizations, and other stakeholders to host events during the week of Bobcat Preview. Bobcat Preview will be accepting event submissions until August 6, 2021.

Dr. Hernandez provided an update on the two searches -- Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Executive Director of the Department of Housing and Residential Life.

Mr. Pierce provided an update on the search for an Associate Vice President and University Librarian.

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Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on July 22, 2021.