

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
June 28, 2021

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of June 21, 2021, to data from the week of June 14, 2021. Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts increased from 741 to 761 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 3.0 to 4.0 percent;
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts increased from 12 to 13, and the average daily positivity rate remained steady at 1.5 percent;
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts decreased from 34 to 32 cases per day, while the average daily positivity rate increased from 1.9 to 2.3 percent; and
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts increased from six to 10 cases per day. (Note: The average daily positivity rate for the week of June 21, 2021, had not been released by meeting time).

Texas State had two positive tests out of 94 tests for a 2.1 percent positivity rate. As of June 28, 2021, there were four active cases at Texas State. During the week of June 21, 2021, Texas A&M University had three positive tests out of 146 tests for a positivity rate of 2.1 percent, and The University of Texas at Austin had zero positive tests out of 221 tests for a positivity rate of zero percent.

Volume of testing remains low, thereby indicating that the daily positivity rate is not an accurate reflection of the transmission rate.

As of June 28, 2021, the one-dose COVID-19 vaccination rates of those who are 12 years of age and older are:

- 57.2 percent of the Texas population,
- 60 percent of Hays county,
- 66.9 percent of Williamson county,
- 69.1 percent of Travis county, and
- 63.1 percent of the U. S. population.

Dr. Carranco discussed the risks for COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, and death as well as the vaccination rate by age group. Among 18- to 24-year-old individuals, for instance, 48.2 percent have had at least one dose and 38.8 percent are fully vaccinated.

Dr. Carranco discussed long COVID, a condition characterized by a range of symptoms (e.g., fatigue, headache, and cough) that can last weeks to months and can happen to anyone who has had COVID-19, even if they had no symptoms at onset. It is predicted that about one third of those who have had COVID-19 will develop long COVID.

Dr. Carranco led a discussion on fall 2021. COVID-19 cases and other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza, rhinovirus, and adenovirus, are expected, and new variants of COVID-19 may emerge. Face coverings will be recommended, not required; and space capacity restrictions will be lifted. Classrooms are expected to be full and lots of co-curricular activities, both indoors and outdoors, are being planned. A portion of Texas State students will not be vaccinated at the start of the semester. In light of these conditions:

- Self-assessment needs to be emphasized, and
- Sick persons will need to stay home and get tested to rule out COVID-19 and the flu, and isolation of positive cases and quarantine of close contacts will still be necessary.

Supervisors and faculty are asked to remain flexible and work with/accommodate employees and students, respectively, on a case-by-case basis.

Members of the President's Cabinet will continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation and will respond accordingly.

Inclusion and Diversity (#747)

Dr. Lloyd, Dr. Silva, and Life Anew guests Ms. Iris Savage, Project Manager; Mr. Sherwynn Patton, Director; and Ms. Carol Price-Williams, Restorative Coordinator, discussed the process by which Life Anew has been assisting the university in building equitable relationships across various internal groups. They are in the final stages of conducting the 360 degree feedback process and drafting a final report. Several themes emerged from this process, including, but not limited to: hiring diverse faculty and staff; supporting students, faculty, and staff of color; applying policies equitably, training faculty and staff on complex issues related to DEIA; and reforming certain policing practices/protocols. The recommendations in the final report will focus on development and implementation of inclusive practices.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth reviewed Texas Senate Bill 1385 recently signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott. Effective July 1, 2021, student-athletes may earn compensation from outside businesses or non-profits who want to use their name, image, and likeness.

Significant Issues (#01)

Provost Bourgeois provided an update on fall 2021 enrollment. Robust first-year student enrollment numbers are expected, as key metrics are higher than they were at the same time in 2019 (pre-pandemic). Specifically:

- 7,229 students have signed up for New Student Orientation; and
- 6,007 freshmen have signed housing contracts.

When considering melt, first-year student enrollment is predicted to fall between 6,400 to 6,700 students.

Enrollment of continuing students is lagging, as 1,157 continuing students have yet to register for fall 2021. Based on registration trends for fall 2020, although continuing students are expected to register, they are simply not registering as fast as they have registered in pre-pandemic years.

Mr. Algoe announced that his office will submit the final budget for fiscal year 2021-22 to The Texas State University System office in the new few weeks.

Mr. Algoe provided an update on summer construction/renovation projects.

Dr. Breier led a discussion on tailgating for football games and Texas State Alumni Association requests.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on July 13, 2021.