

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
August 30, 2021

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of August 23, 2021, to data from the week of August 16, 2021.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 11,778 to 11,500 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 17.2 to 16.1 percent;
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased from 332 to 244, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 16.3 to 12.7 percent;
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts decreased from 565 to 468 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 14.8 to 13.5 percent; and
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts increased from 153 to 158 cases per day; the average daily positivity rate had not been reported by meeting time.

For the week of August 23, 2021, Texas State had 288 positive tests out of 3,024 tests for a positivity rate of 9.5 percent.

On August 22, 2021, there were 131 active cases, and on August 29, 2021, that number increased to 371.

The University of Texas and Texas A&M University recently reported positivity rates of .4 percent (37 positive tests out of 9,839 tests) and 5.9 percent (139 positive tests out of 2,346 tests), respectively.

Dr. Carranco shared that contact tracers are no longer able to contact trace cases within 48 hours of being reported. By meeting time, there were 270 cases pending contact tracing. Texas State has nine contact tracers, another five are being trained, and another five will be hired and trained.

The contact tracing process will be modified to prioritize case investigations based on risk. Students living in residence halls, student-athletes, and those reporting as unvaccinated and unmasked will be prioritized based on the potential for spread of infection in those situations. Additionally, beginning August 31, 2021, when an individual enrolled in a Texas State course reports a positive COVID-19 test, a notification email will be sent to the instructor of record and all students enrolled in the class section. This notice allows the email recipients to take immediate steps to stay safe and healthy and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Provost Bourgeois discussed faculty options in terms of course delivery. All classes must be implemented in the instruction mode that appears on the Schedule of Classes in CatsWeb. However, faculty have discretion and flexibility to implement classes according to the definition and parameters of instruction modes. For example, the face-to-face course instruction mode means 85 percent or more of the faculty-student interaction occurs in-person. The remaining 15 percent may occur in other formats, including Zoom. The A/B classroom model for a face-to-face class could work as long as the 85 percent in-person threshold is met across the semester. As another example, an instructor could deliver a face-to-face class via Zoom for two weeks and then transition to in-person instruction to meet the 85 percent in-person threshold.

Two mass vaccination events were held at the start of the semester on the San Marcos Campus and both had disappointing turnouts. Thirty-nine people attended the mass vaccination event on August 20, 2021, and another 145 attended the mass vaccination event on August 27, 2021. President's Cabinet members discussed ways to increase vaccination rates, including the possibility of offering incentives.

Dr. Carranco announced that a third Pfizer dose is now available in the Student Health Center for immunocompromised persons.

Mr. Algoe discussed changes to the remote work policy statements in UPPS 04.04.01 General Workplace Policy.

These updates will be shared through emails from Provost Bourgeois, Dr. Carranco, and the Office of Human Resources and discussed at the next Town Hall set for September 1, 2021.

Information Security

Mr. Pierce and guest Mr. Dan Owen, Chief Information Security Officer, reviewed the State of Information Security Report.

Website Accessibility Plan (#731)

Mr. Pierce discussed the university standard for displaying organizational charts in a way that complies with SACSCOC and accessibility standards. President's Cabinet members approved standardizing how organizational charts are displayed on the Texas State website.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth discussed an upcoming visit by Chancellor Brian McCall and new TSUS Regents Sheila Faske and Stephen Lee to the San Marcos Campus on September 3, 2021.

President Trauth discussed the guests who have been invited to watch the Texas State versus Baylor University football game in the President's suite on September 4, 2021.

Significant Issues (#01)

Provost Bourgeois provided an update on fall 2021 enrollment. Currently, the freshman class is made up of 6,653 students. The number of freshmen in the top 10 percent and top 25 percent of their high school class have grown significantly, and freshmen to sophomore retention is higher than the previous year.

Mr. Algoe led a discussion on the upcoming 9/11 commemoration at Texas State.

Mr. Algoe shared that the Infrastructure Research Laboratory groundbreaking ceremony will be held at STAR Park on August 31, 2021.

Dr. Breier announced that representatives from Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) will visit Ingram Hall on September 3, 2021. AMD has been generous in providing Texas State with high performance computing hardware and cloud computing services. Their partnership expands Texas State faculty's research capacity and provides one-of-a-kind learning opportunities for students to engage in research and connect with experienced mentors.

Mr. Coryell provided an update on preparations for the upcoming Texas State versus Baylor University football game.

Mr. Pierce announced that the Albert B. Alkek Library will be hosting an open house event on September 2, 2021.

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Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on September 20, 2021.