

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
March 26, 2021

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

While there has been a slight uptick in cases across the country, cases have been declining in Texas. In both, Williamson and Hays counties, the positivity rates are below four percent. Given the low transmission levels, Cabinet members and guests Dr. Emilio Carranco, Dr. Mary Ellen Cavitt, and Dr. Walt Horton discussed modifying safety protocols and a holistic phased approach to rolling out in-person events (e.g., co-curricular and extra-curricular), travel, camps, and research activities. The decisions made during the meeting apply through the end of the spring 2021 semester. During the April 16, 2021, President's Cabinet Retreat, Cabinet members will re-evaluate Texas State's approach to in-person instruction and programming for summer and fall 2021.

**In-Person Events.** Through the end of the spring 2021 semester, in-person events, including classroom instruction, indoor and outdoor co-curricular and extra-curricular activities:

- Are for the Texas State community, not external groups\*;
- May allow external guests, but the majority of the attendees should be university community members (in other words, in-person events for external groups are not allowed)\*\*;
- Must follow existing [COVID-19 health and safety guidelines](#), including require face coverings, promote appropriate physical distancing, and practice proper hand hygiene;
- May not exceed capacity limits of 50 percent\*\*\*; and
- May serve individually plated or boxed meals at breakfast, lunch, and dinner (as long as they can be eaten while seated at tables with limited seating to ensure appropriate physical distancing) and individually wrapped food at other types of in-person events (e.g., receptions) as long as appropriate physical distancing can be maintained.

\*Exceptions must be approved by the university president.

\*\*Except for summer academic and athletic camps (which include children, who are the least susceptible to COVID-19 complications).

\*\*\*Events larger than 200, even when capacity limit of 50 percent is not exceeded, will require approval by the president, divisional vice president, or Director of Athletics; and attendance at intercollegiate athletic events will remain at 35 percent capacity.

Depending on the nature of the event, additional restrictions may be imposed by the president, divisional vice president, or the Director of Athletics.

Chartered/registered student organization events will require approval by Student Involvement.

**Alkek Library.** Study rooms in the Albert B. Alkek Library will be reopened before finals.

**Research Activities.** Principal investigators may increase research staffing capacity beyond current limits if strict safety protocols are followed (e.g., physical distancing, face coverings, and logging of personnel upon entry and exit). Students working in the laboratories will remain optional. Non-research personnel, other than university staff or staff from The Texas State University System needing access as a result of their job responsibilities, may be allowed admittance into the laboratories with approval by the principal investigator and department chair/school director in consultation with the Associate Vice President for Research and Federal Relations.

**Travel.** Domestic and international travel may be allowed with divisional vice president or Director of Athletics approval. Travelers are reminded to adhere to current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance.

**Sewell Park.** At least through the spring 2021 semester, Sewell Park will remain closed. Opening Sewell Park will require heavy staffing levels to enforce current safety protocols (which are based on CDC guidance). This item will be revisited when CDC guidance changes. Dr. Hernandez's staff will develop a proposal to allow spring graduates the opportunity to continue the tradition of jumping into the San Marcos River.

**Camps.** Safety protocol for day camps are as follows:

- Face coverings required when not engaged in a sporting activity;
- Daily symptom checks at the beginning of the day;
- Boxed meals and wrapped snacks;
- Attendees limited to 50 percent capacity;
- COVID-19 testing not required; and
- Attendees assigned to pods of no more than 10.

The Department of Housing and Residential Life is gearing up to support overnight camps. The number of students per residence hall room and testing protocol were discussed. Currently, there is no federal or state guidance recommending testing for summer camps. President Trauth tasked Dr. Cavitt, Dr. Hernandez, Dr. Carranco, and Dr. Lloyd to continue the discussion following the President's Cabinet meeting and to present a proposal during the next President's Cabinet meeting. Given that children are not likely to be vaccinated by May or June 2021, any approved protocol may be revised as summer 2021 progresses.

Dr. Teis announced that while Cabinet members approved offering summer camps, the Department of Athletics has not finalized its camps, as they are awaiting the NCAA to make a ruling about athletic summer camps.

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