

To: President's Cabinet  
From: Denise M. Trauth  
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting  
June 2, 2021

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

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of May 17, 2021, to data from the week of May 24, 2021. Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 954 to 720 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 3.2 to 2.9 percent;
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased from 25 to 14, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 3.0 to 1.4 percent;
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts decreased from 20 to 15 cases per day. By meeting time, Hays county had not yet reported data for the week of May 24, 2021; and
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts decreased from 38 to 21 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 2.7 to 2.2 percent.

As of June 2, 2021, there were six active cases at Texas State. Testing has dropped off significantly. For the week of May 24, 2021, 137 tests were performed, with five tests returning positive. As a reminder, with a low testing volume, the positivity rate becomes an inaccurate reflection of community transmission.

As of June 2, 2021, the one-dose COVID-19 vaccination rates of those 12 and older are:

- 53 percent of the Texas population,
- 57 percent of Hays county,
- 63 percent of Williamson county,
- 65 percent of Travis county, and
- 60 percent of the U. S. population.

The Student Health Center is offering two options for university community members to get vaccinated: by appointment Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or by a mass vaccination event. The next event will be June 3, 2021.

Initiatives to promote vaccinations among students were discussed:

- Emails announcing mass vaccination events will be sent to the university community, including students enrolled in summer and/or fall semesters.
- Targeted messages will be developed for specific student groups (e.g., sororities, fraternities, students attending new student orientation, and student organizations).
- Regular COVID-19 updates will continue to be shared university-wide.

Dr. Carranco led a discussion on the metrics (e.g., positivity rates and cases per 100,000) that should be considered when making decisions about changing current university operations and COVID-19 prevention measures.

COVID-19 is likely to persist for the foreseeable future. In light of this outlook, vaccination protection and boosters were discussed. Recent research studies suggest protection will last nine to 12 months, possibly longer. If the timeline is correct, then boosters may be seen in spring 2021. Data, however, are still being reviewed. Thus, at this time, it is unclear when boosters will be needed. It is an evolving situation. If a variant emerges, then the timeline for a booster may shorten.

Wearing face coverings will continue to be promoted, especially during the flu season (i.e., October-November).

### **Development Update (#588)**

Dr. Breier reviewed recent quarterly reports.

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

President Trauth announced that Governor Greg Abbott appointed:

- Texas State student Matthew Smith to a one-year term as student representative to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- Texas State student Camile Settegest to a one-year term as student regent serving on The Texas State University Board of Regents.

President Trauth led a discussion on raising awareness of new initiatives on both campuses to enhance employee morale and demonstrate appreciation. Based on feedback and recommendations from Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and the Faculty and Staff Morale Work Group, a number of celebrations and initiatives around wellness, self-care, building community, and recognition for outstanding contributions are being assembled. Initiatives for faculty and staff include free membership to the Student Recreation Center during the summer, free passes to intercollegiate athletic and performing arts events, an after hours lounge, a dining plan, food tasting events, enhanced outdoor spaces, and luncheons for administrative professional staff.

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

Mr. Algoe discussed bills signed into law during the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session. Several bills will impact institutions of higher education, but it will take time to understand their full impact. While the five percent budget cut to institutions of higher education was restored, overall funding for higher education is lower. House Bill 1927 ("Constitutional Carry") will be examined to determine whether changes will need to be made to UPPS 01.04.05, Concealed Carry of Handguns by License Holders on University Premises. House Bill 9 is another bill that will be examined and Texas State free speech information on websites, training materials, and policies and procedures will be updated accordingly. The Division of Student Affairs will take the lead in informing students of the changes.

Mr. Algoe provided an update on facility projects currently underway on both campuses.

Mr. Algoe shared that the latest round of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions has substantial changes. Of which, the most significant is a drastically reduced time to spend the funds. Mr. Algoe is working with the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships to develop a plan to address the revised timeline.

Mr. Coryell expressed his appreciation to Cabinet members for their support during a difficult time. Mr. Jaylen Allen, a sprinter on the track and field team, was a tremendous individual, and the Department of Athletics, especially the student athletes, are grieving his sudden death from a tragic car accident.

Dr. Hernandez provided an update on housing reservations.

Dr. Hernandez provided an update on vacant positions in the Division of Student Affairs.

Dr. Hernandez announced that the Counseling Center will soon be adding an after-hours mental health hotline that will feed directly into its information management system.

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Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on June 17, 2021.