

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
March 21, 2022

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Dr. Carranco compared data for the week ending on March 20, 2022, to data for the week ending on March 13, 2022.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts decreased from 1,915 to 1,295 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 2.6 to 2.3 percent.
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts decreased from 21 to 13 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 3.6 to 1.7 percent.
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts decreased from 56 to 52 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 3.9 to 2.8 percent.
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts decreased from 25 to 17 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 3.7 to 2.4 percent.
- In Texas, hospitalizations decreased from 1,897 to 1,524.

On the Texas State campuses, there were three positives out of 54 tests for a positivity rate of 5.3 percent. It was noted that testing was limited during spring break. The increase in positivity rate from previous reports is likely due to the reduced number of tests performed.

COVID-19 Community Levels, newly defined by the CDC, in Hays, Williamson, and Travis counties are "low." However, transmission levels in Williamson county is "substantial" and Hays and Travis counties are "moderate."

Latest reports indicate that the positivity rate is 0.6 percent (14 positive results out of 2,293 tests) at The University of Texas, and the positivity rate is 1.0 percent (19 positives out of 1,902 tests) at Texas A&M University.

COVID-19 case counts, positivity rates, transmission levels, and hospitalizations continue their steady decline. Dr. Carranco discussed the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels and transmission levels and provided benchmarking data to guide decisions about whether to relax mitigation strategies. Texas State will continue to recommend wearing masks indoors.

The Omicron subvariant BA.2 is driving new surges in Europe and Asia. The U. S. will likely see an increase in cases in a few weeks, but it is unclear whether a major surge will follow. The combination of immunity from natural infection and vaccination may be enough to prevent a major surge in the U. S. At this point, it appears that BA.2 is more contagious than the original Omicron strain but not any more severe than the original strain. Current vaccines also appear to provide similar protection against BA.2 as against BA.1.

A second vaccine booster dose may be necessary. Studies indicate that vaccine protection significantly decreases four to six months after the booster dose of Pfizer or Moderna. Consequently, both Pfizer and Moderna are requesting authorization for a second booster (i.e., which is a fourth dose). A fourth dose of vaccine is already authorized for persons 12 and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised.

Due to lack of Federal appropriations for COVID-19 services, the Health Resources and Services Administration has announced that it is no longer able to accept claims for COVID-19 testing of uninsured patients due to lack of funding. Therefore, Curative is no longer able to test patients who are uninsured. Starting March 18, 2022, patients testing at a Curative site in Texas will be required to show proof of insurance and an ID. The test will continue to be provided at no out-of-pocket cost upon proof of insurance. The Student Health Center will provide a free rapid PCR test to uninsured students, faculty, and staff if they are symptomatic.

Dr. Carranco will send out an update to the university community.

University Policing and Criminal Trespass Warnings

President's Cabinet members and guest University Police Chief Matthew Carmichael discussed his philosophy on university policing. Chief Carmichael proposed new ways to improve the process for issuing criminal trespass warnings, including the creation of an online registry/repository of persons who have been issued a criminal trespass warning. President's Cabinet members discussed the pros and cons and requested that Chief Carmichael develop a formal proposal grounded in best practices.

RTA: 05/09/2022 Continue discussion on criminal trespass warnings.

Student Retention Data Analysis

President's Cabinet members and guest Dr. Mary Ellen Cavitt, Associate Vice President for Academic Success, discussed the acquisition of a Student Retention Data Analysis tool that would perform predictive and effectiveness analytics. Cabinet members engaged in a robust discussion on the pros and cons of whether to take an external or internal approach to student success analytics; how the data would be used; and who would oversee/manage data acquisition, analysis, and evaluation, as well as the development of data informed interventions. More information will be gathered and this item be returned to a future Cabinet meeting.

RTA: 06/01/2022 Continue discussion regarding the acquisition of a student retention data analysis tool.

Communications After Action Report to Cabinet: Winter Storm Uri

This item was moved to the April 4, 2022, President's Cabinet meeting.

President's Update (#556)

Dr. Breier announced her retirement, effective May 31, 2022. President Trauth lauded Dr. Breier's leadership in fundraising and communications. President Trauth announced that the search for the next vice president for university advancement will not convene until after the sole finalist for the next university president is named.

President Trauth discussed the process preparing for the next Legislative Session. The Legislative Appropriations Request is due during the summer, and a group has been convened to write a special item proposal for a student success research center focused on retention.

President Trauth discussed funding for digitizing The Wittliff Collections. She added that when the sole finalist for the new president visits the San Marcos Campus, an event will be held in The Wittliff Collections.

Significant Issues (#01)

Provost Bourgeois provided a preliminary update on fall 2022 enrollment. Enrollment data remain higher than this time last year.

Mr. Algoe announced that Ms. Nancy Nusbaum is retiring on May 31, 2022. Succession planning will allow Ms. Cristine Black to assume Ms. Nusbaum's role; thereby, shrinking the number of direct reports to the Vice President for Finance and Support Services by one.

Mr. Algoe touched briefly on recent innovations implemented by Human Resources and will discuss them in greater detail at a future Cabinet meeting.

RTA: 05/16/22 Highlight recent innovations implemented by Human Resources.

Dr. Breier discussed Texas State's Innovation Lab at SXSW 2022; 15 student-led projects were showcased in front of a large crowd on March 13, 2022.

Dr. Breier announced that candidates for the Assistant Vice President for Alumni Engagement are on the San Marcos Campus during the week of March 21, 2022.

Mr. Coryell provided a recap of recent athletic events and summarized the week ahead for Bobcat Athletics sports teams.

Dr. Silva announced that the Talent Acquisition team has moved to Elliot Hall.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on April 15, 2022.