

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
August 25, 2021

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of August 16, 2021, to data from the week of August 9, 2021.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts increased from 11,286 to 11,778 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 18.5 to 17.2 percent;
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts increased from 279 to 332, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 15.8 to 16.3 percent;
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts increased from 385 to 565 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 14.1 to 14.8 percent; and
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts decreased from 163 to 153 cases per day; and the average daily positivity rate decreased from 13.1 to 12.6 percent.

Texas hospitalizations for COVID-19 increased from 3,692 in July 2021 to 13,106 in August 2021.

For the week of August 16, 2021, Texas State had 45 positive tests out of 1,193 tests for a positivity rate of 3.8 percent.

Between August 22, 2021, and August 24, 2021, daily cases reported to Bobcat Trace increased from 32 to 61. On August 22, 2021, there were 131 active cases, and on August 24, 2021, that number increased to 188.

COVID-19 fully vaccinated rates of those who are 12 years of age and older are:

- 54.4 percent of the Texas population,
- 57.2 percent of Hays county,
- 64.3 percent of Williamson county,
- 65.9 percent of Travis county, and
- 60.2 percent of the U. S. population.

Thirty-nine people attended the mass vaccination event held on August 20, 2021, on the San Marcos Campus. Based on preliminary registration numbers, 200 to 250 people are expected to attend the upcoming mass vaccination event on August 27, 2021, on the San Marcos Campus. The Student Health Center on the Round Rock Campus will begin administering the vaccine on September 6, 2021.

One of the primary metrics for targeted interventions on the Texas State Campuses is assessing whether multiple cases in a classroom, office, or residence hall are linked. Besides roommate-to-roommate transmission, no other linked cases in these spaces have been identified. For example, 120 students who live on campus are in isolation/quarantine. Contact tracing has revealed no clustering (no evidence that these cases are linked and mass transmission occurred).

At present, nine contact tracers are actively working cases, five additional contact tracers are being trained, and more are being hired, with the goal of having 20 contract tracers on staff in the next few weeks. At this time, the contact tracers are able to contact trace most cases within 24 hours, and all within 48 hours. Given the current trend of escalating daily case counts, Dr. Carranco reported that the Hays County Health Department has focused its efforts on contact tracing positive cases that present a higher risk of transmission. By meeting time, Texas State is able to contact trace all reported cases.

Dr. Carranco reviewed Texas State's contract tracing protocol. The primary goal is to contact all close contacts within 24 hours. Dr. Carranco discussed changes in the contact tracing protocol. To strengthen notification efforts, Dr. Carranco proposed implementation of a risk assessment. For example, when a student reports to Bobcat Trace, faculty and students in the classes that the student attended will be notified. Though they will not be asked to quarantine, they will be asked to monitor symptoms and get tested.

Employees who believe that they have come in contact with a positive case, should not make independent decisions as to whether to quarantine. They should promptly report to Bobcat Trace and wait for instruction. Employees who receive an email notification from Bobcat Trace to isolate/quarantine, should forward the email notification to their supervisor.

Testing remains an important mitigating strategy. Dr. Carranco is working to identify a second location to double Texas State's testing capacity. Curative, Inc., is using an Abbott test, which is an FDA-approved PCR test.

Dr. Carranco discussed the pros and cons of over-the-counter antigen tests currently available in pharmacies. They are good rapid tests for detecting if someone is currently contagious; however, they are less reliable at early onset of the disease and late in the disease. Therefore, they have a higher false negative rate.

Future Articles in Hillviews (#643)

Dr. Breier and guest Ms. Sandy Pantlik, Assistant Vice President for Communications, discussed the budget for the fall 2021 Hillviews.

Communications After Action Report to Cabinet: Winter Storm Uri

Dr. Breier and guests Ms. Sandy Pantlik and Mr. Elias Martinez, Assistant Vice President for University Marketing, provided an update on the University Communications and University Marketing After Action Report for winter storm Uri in February 2021. The report included a

timeline of University Communications and University Marketing responses before, during, and after the storm, as well as issues and solutions. University Communications will prepare a document of next steps to discuss with VPFSS, VPIT, and VPSA, and bring updates and recommendations back to a future President's Cabinet meeting. Examples include developing an approval process for timely communication, using only one email account during emergency situations, familiarizing all residence hall assistants with the communication channels, and making the RAVE program an opt out rather an opt in program.

Mr. Algoe added that the dispatch center has moved from the San Marcos Campus to the Hays County Dispatch Center.

RTA: 10/25/21 Continue discussion on University Communications and University Marketing After Action Report for winter storm Uri in February 2021.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth discussed the upcoming meeting with new TSUS Regents Sheila Faske and Stephen Lee and Chancellor Brian McCall on September 3, 2021. Their visit will include a tour of the San Marcos Campus and two briefings; one will include a general overview of Texas State and the other will focus on Texas State's research enterprise.

Significant Issues (#01)

Dr. Hernandez shared that, to date, 3,589 students had electronically signed an acknowledgment entitled, "Keep Texas State Safe: Steps to Stop the Spread."

DMT:ta

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