

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
August 9, 2021

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Dr. Carranco compared data from the week of August 2, 2021, to data from the week of July 26, 2021.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts increased from 7,186 to 10,457 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 16.5 to 18.4 percent;
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts increased from 262 to 303, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 15.7 to 16.4 percent;
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts increased from 365 to 418 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate is holding steady at 14.5 percent; and
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts increased from 100 to 150 cases per day. By meeting time, Hays county had not reported their latest positivity rates.

Texas State had 39 positive tests out of 476 tests for a positivity rate of 8.2 percent. As of August 9, 2021, there were 59 active cases at Texas State.

The University of Texas and Texas A&M University recently reported positivity rates of .8 percent (15 positive tests out of 1,804 tests) and 8.3 percent (60 positive tests out of 719 tests), respectively.

Testing will be a critical mitigation strategy this fall. The Student Health Center is working with Curative, Inc., to add a second testing site on the San Marcos Campus. Students living in on-campus housing will be required to show proof of a negative test result within the last four days of move-in or documentation of a positive COVID-19 test within the last 90 days of move-in. For students unable to test before arrival, a limited number of free, rapid COVID-19 tests will be available at the University Events Center on August 15-17, 2021.

Sun Belt Conference rules require that student-athletes will need to complete a COVID-19 PCR baseline test within seven days of returning to campus or produce documentation of a positive COVID-19 test within the last 90 days. Thereafter, according to these rules unvaccinated student-athletes will be tested weekly.

While university community members can always make an appointment for vaccination at the Student Health Center, the next mass vaccination event, specifically focused on students, will be on August 18, 2021.

Students directed to isolate or quarantine, must do so at their permanent residence (home). No on-campus housing will be available.

Guidelines for safe event planning were discussed. Dr. Hernandez will incorporate feedback received and post the guidelines to the Roadmap.

The COVID-19 communication plan was discussed, beginning with a series of messages during the week of August 9, 2021. President Trauth's message to the university community will be followed by constituent-specific messages, such as Provost Bourgeois' message to faculty and a message to students living on campus from the Department of Housing and Residential Life. A Town Hall will be scheduled for the week of August 16, 2021. Dr. Carranco will share updates on COVID-19 transmission patterns, the Delta variant, health and safety measures for fall, and mass vaccinations. Provost Bourgeois will discuss topics related to course delivery, and Mr. Algoe will provide guidance for supervisors and staff support. Dr. Hernandez will also be available during a question and answer session, moderated by Vice President for University Advancement Dr. Barbara Breier.

Mr. Algoe reported that busses will run at 100 percent occupancy and require passengers to wear face coverings through September 9, 2021, per current Federal Transit Authority rules.

Board of Regents' Review (#500)

Mr. Algoe, Provost Bourgeois, and invited guests Dr. Lynn Ledbetter, Faculty Senate Chair, Mr. Noel Fuller, Staff Council Chair (who did not attend), Mr. Andrew Gryce, Student Government President, and Mr. Jayme Blaschke reviewed the August 2021 agenda items.

Board of Regents News Release (#626)

President Trauth and guest Mr. Jayme Blaschke reviewed possible topics for inclusion in the news release on the August 2021 Board of Regents meeting. A news release on the resolution honoring Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Joanne Smith will be written and shared widely. Unrelated to the BOR meeting, Ms. Pantlik shared that news releases about the upcoming ground-breaking events for Live Oak Hall and the Infrastructure Research Laboratory are being prepared.

Data Management

This item was moved to a future meeting.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth discussed the upcoming Board of Regents meeting.

Significant Issues (#01)

Provost Bourgeois discussed enrollment. More than 6,000 new students are expected, though a final number will not be known for some time, as hundreds of new students are still in the process of registering for classes. Currently, there are 6,040 housing contracts. The number of continuing students is showing signs of rebounding.

Mr. Algoe provided a series of updates, including a recent vandalism to the Hill House, a project to replace sewer and steam lines, and the opening of Kerbey Lane.

Mr. Algoe lauded the University Police Department officers for their heroic efforts in responding to a drowning of a young child in Sewell Park. Their swift action saved the child's life.

Mr. Coryell announced upcoming athletic events, beginning with an exhibition soccer game versus University of Texas at San Antonio on August 12, 2021, and faculty and staff movie night at Bobcat Stadium on August 19, 2021.

Dr. Hernandez provided an update on Bobcat Preview and invited Cabinet members to tour several residence halls on August 10, 2021.

Mr. Algoe shared that Mr. Gordon Green is the interim Associate Vice President for Facilities beginning on August 9, 2021.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on August 25, 2021.