

Sept. 9, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I know anxiety is high. I forget sometimes that most of you are not in the thick of the planning and have not been constantly weighing all the possible institutional responses to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the strategies we employed last year came at a high cost in human effort and capacity, and simply are not sustainable. If you think back to the time and effort involved, the time and effort you contributed, you probably know that. And we also know the toll that the “bubble” and online learning had on our students. The good thing is that the availability of [COVID-19 vaccines that are safe and effective](#), coupled with [required indoor masking](#), mean that most of those mitigation measures are no longer necessary. However, the same strategies that last year were so difficult to implement now feel safe and familiar. I understand that not engaging in some of them may be very difficult to accept. You may feel a loss where I see a victory—but I have had months to get used to the idea. You may be realizing only now how dramatically different our strategy is this year. I am sorry if it has come as a shock.

The University is requiring that all students, faculty, and staff receive and report a [COVID-19 vaccination](#). Our campus-wide COVID-19 vaccination requirement goes into full effect on Oct. 5, 2021. By that date, all students, faculty, and staff must have received either both shots of a two-dose regimen (for Pfizer and Moderna) or the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The process is moving forward: Yesterday was both the deadline for exemptions to be submitted, and the day we held the first vaccination clinic on campus. *Other vaccination events will be held in room 203 of the University Wellness Commons from noon-4 p.m. on Sept. 29, and Oct. 4, 6, and 8.* You can also receive your flu shot at those clinics.

Vaccination Information

The Public Health Office and UHS are available to help answer your questions or concerns, and to help members of our community find vaccinations. In addition, Walgreens staff will be on campus soon to offer vaccinations, and you can find vaccination sites nearby by using [vaccinefinder.org](#).

Once you have been vaccinated, please enter your information into [our database](#). This is a HIPAA-compliant survey that requires the date you completed your vaccination series, Banner ID, and a photo of your CDC-issued vaccination record card. If you have trouble completing the survey or submitting your documentation, please contact philip.loyd@sewanee.edu.

Remember that the University provides up to three paid hours for work time missed while receiving a COVID-19 vaccination, as well as one paid day off following the final shot to allow recovery time from any symptoms due to an immune response. See details on the [Human Resources website](#). If booster vaccinations become recommended and approved, we will update the policy such that employees will also receive paid time off to receive an additional shot.

COVID-19 Dashboard

Keep track of our testing results and vaccination rates by visiting the University's [COVID-19 dashboard](#). The dashboard is being updated at least weekly. It is important that the data we display publicly is as accurate as possible, and we have seen dramatic increases in our reported vaccination rates over the past two weeks. ***If you are vaccinated but have not yet done so, please upload a copy of your vaccination card to vaccine.sewanee.edu as soon as possible.***

Masking Policy Reminder

Now that the campus is full, don't forget the [University's masking policy](#). *Effective Aug. 3, 2021, and until further notice, all students, employees, and visitors must wear face coverings/masks over their nose and mouth when they are in public spaces inside all University buildings. While outdoors, masks are not required unless otherwise indicated by the University.* For the most up-to-date information, check the [University's COVID-19 website](#), and look for email announcements.

Faculty and staff in various work areas are encouraged to remind anyone not complying with our indoor masking policy to please do so. Given the many changes to policy, it is easy to forget that even fully vaccinated persons need to mask indoors. Please be gracious in reminding, and when you are reminded!

Sincerely,

Nancy