

April 7, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Planning

Reminder: If you plan to have student interns, students, or program participants on campus this summer and have not already done so, please contact Conference Services (conferences@sewanee.edu) to make arrangements. You'll need to be aware of our summer policies and outline your COVID-19 mitigation plans.

While it is still too early to know exactly what the fall will look like, we expect a substantial return to normalcy given the wide availability of COVID-19 vaccines. But even with wide vaccine distribution, we still may need to take precautions such as masking and distancing in the classroom. We will continue to pay close attention to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control.

COVID-19 Testing

Another 1,788 tests were administered last week. Two students tested positive. That is a 0.11% positivity rate. With only five weeks of classes left in the College, we have not strained our quarantine and isolation capacity. See the University's testing results published daily on our [Daily COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

There were no employee positive tests again last week—great job! Thank you for continuing to be mindful of the 3W's—along with vaccines, they are our most powerful tools to combat the spread of this disease: [Wear your mask](#). Wash your hands. Watch your distance. It's important to follow good [COVID-19 protocols](#) both on campus *and off campus*, and [to continue to limit your social interactions](#).

[Fully vaccinated](#) employees are no longer required to participate in COVID-19 testing. They are also no longer required to quarantine in the event of an exposure, as long as they remain asymptomatic. Remember, you are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after your second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine. In order to be eligible to discontinue COVID-19 testing, a record of your vaccination must be submitted to Sewanee's public health team via vaccine.sewanee.edu. This HIPAA-compliant survey 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. Until these requirements are met, we ask that you continue testing as required.

Surveillance test results are available the day after testing, and you will receive a communication only if the results are positive. Remember that employees who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and who are working on campus may request to be tested by our team by calling 931.598.1010 (please do not show up at the Fowler test site unannounced). Employees who receive positive test results must work with their primary care providers to determine how to proceed and must follow University policies related to COVID-19 and sick leave.

Updated Vaccination Information

As of this past Monday, Tennessee residents ages 16 and up are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. This is incredibly exciting and encouraging. Widespread vaccination is one of the best ways to prevent continued spread of COVID-19 and return the University to a standard mode of operation.

Vaccines are available at all county health departments as well as through a variety of local pharmacies and community providers. To find a vaccination site near Sewanee, use vaccinefinder.org. Remember that the University will provide 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 potential symptoms due to an immune response. See details on the [Human Resources website](#).

University Health Service began vaccinating students last week with the Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine, and will order additional doses for students on a weekly basis. On Monday, the University also began providing bus transportation to Walgreens in Decherd for up to 100 students and employees to receive Moderna vaccinations. Be sure to sign up [here](#). Should the University be able to schedule a vaccination event on campus specifically for employees, we will let you know.

In case you missed it, we've started a "[Pop the Bubble!](#)" campaign with students. Along with the effort to get them vaccinated, we decided that two weeks after at least 1,200 College students (that's 80%) have received at least their first shot, limitations regarding movement on and off campus will be lifted, as will gathering limits. Family and friends may visit; however, outside visitors will still not be permitted to go inside residence halls and/or stay overnight on campus. We're monitoring the number of vaccinated students and employees based on entries into [our database](#). For further information, you can check out [the FAQ](#).

As of April 6, 470 students have been verified as receiving at least one vaccination. Updates to that number will be posted on the [COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Thank You: I want to give a shout out this week to the Facilities Management staff. Once again this semester they worked to ready our classrooms with sanitation supplies. They reordered tents and resupplied them with power, technology, and furniture in January. Early in the semester they kept us going when the power was out, when trees fell onto tents, and when tents collapsed due to snow, all while ensuring our sidewalks were safe. The grounds crew cleaned up downed trees and fallen limbs across campus, and now the "host of golden [and other color] daffodils" is simply stunning. I appreciate their dedication to enhancing the beauty of our campus even when we are unable to show it off to visitors.

Sincerely,

Nancy Berner

Provost