

April 14, 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.

Our fall semester plans for the classroom were recently discussed with the faculty. In conversation with the Academic Leadership Council, it was decided that students and faculty should plan to be back on campus and in classrooms next semester. These expectations have also been communicated to prospective and current students. We expect a full slate of lectures, concerts, social activities, and athletic competitions this fall. At this point, the demonstrated safety of the classroom and the wide availability of vaccines make this a viable and safe assumption. Many of our peer institutions are making similar plans. We hope that all students, faculty, and staff will be vaccinated by the fall, and we will continue to pay close attention to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control.

Updated Vaccination Information

Tennessee residents ages 16 and up are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccines are available at all county health departments as well as local pharmacies and community providers. To find a vaccination site near Sewanee, use vaccinefinder.org. 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](#).

On Tuesday, the CDC and FDA recommended pausing usage of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. University Health Service had been administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and will pause until further notice. Fortunately, the University continues to have access to Moderna vaccinations through a partnership with Walgreens, and bus transportation to Decherd for up to 100 students and employees continues *today and Thursday*. Be sure to sign up [here](#).

Shots available on campus: I am very happy to announce that Monday through Thursday next week, Walgreens will be administering Moderna vaccinations on campus! Pharmacists will be at the Fowler Center for anyone seeking a vaccination; no appointment is necessary. Be sure to check your email for hours of availability. Let's have a great turnout.

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 13, 873 students have been verified as receiving at least one vaccination. Updates to that number will be posted on the [COVID-19 dashboard](#).

COVID-19 Testing

Another 1,792 tests were administered last week with no one testing positive. That is a 0.00% positivity rate! 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. 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.

Other University News

EQB Reflection & Response next steps: EQB Values Project gatherings are coming up this month. Thanks to the data collected from the EQB Reflection & Response gatherings held earlier this semester, a short list of proposed institutional values is ready to be shared. Please join in to provide your input to fill out and sharpen the proposed values. Faculty, staff, and students from the College and School of Theology are encouraged to be a part of shaping our guiding principles together. Two gatherings will be held later this month [via Zoom](#):

9-10 a.m. Wednesday, April 28

1:30-2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 29

Improved lighting on campus: Karen Singer, director of Facilities Management, reports that at our request, Duck River Electric is helping us improve lighting on campus. They exchanged

some existing street light heads with brighter, dark-sky-compliant, LED fixtures and added several new lights from Humphreys Hall along Georgia Avenue to the motor pool lot and across the dam to the Trezevant Hall front parking lot. This has improved the lighting along Georgia Avenue to Trezevant, and prevents having to walk through the Chi Psi fraternity house yard.

University-sponsored international travel: The Office of Global Citizenship and the Provost's Office have provided updated information about University-sponsored international travel. After the COVID-19 pandemic spread globally during spring 2020, the University halted all University-funded international travel by faculty, staff, and students. Pending review and approval by the risk advisory committee (applications can be made using the [International Travel Authorization Request](#)), the University will authorize requests for international travel using University funding. In its review of international travel applications, the risk advisory committee will assess the safety of travel to a country based on U.S. State Department travel advisory levels, recent COVID-19 caseload levels and trends, and the medical infrastructure of the target country.

Those who wish to travel abroad should also be aware that many countries have travel restrictions in place, which may include proof of a negative COVID-19 test, proof of being fully vaccinated, required COVID-19 testing on arrival, and mandatory quarantines. Prior to spending funds on international travel, employees should first research entry requirements and whether international travel is, in fact, feasible. For assistance with entry requirements and visas, you can contact Abby Colbert. Even if travel is authorized by the risk advisory committee, travel, particularly during a pandemic, involves risk and is undertaken at the risk of those traveling. The advisory committee will not review personal travel plans.

Thank you: The Department of Athletics this semester has hosted almost 60 competitions for our student-athletes from fall, winter, and spring sports. Highlights include the men's golf team's victory over 24th-ranked Rhodes College, Paisley Simmons being named SAA Diver of the Year, and a combined no-hitter in baseball by Logan Martin and Jake Pendergraft. Also, Conchie Shackelford is now one victory away from 600 career wins in women's tennis. Kudos of course go to our coaches, athletes, and staff, and special gratitude goes to Jane Hawkins and Sarah Richey, who have tirelessly managed the testing protocols for campus visitors including teams, coaches, officials, and event management staff. The training room staff, led by Ray Knight, has met the extraordinary challenge of keeping our student-athletes healthy and safe. Looking toward the fall, the coaching staff remains active on the recruiting trail with more than 150 prospect deposits to date.

And thank you to all of you for reading these. I've been sending them weekly for a year—the first one was April 16, 2020. Seems like yesterday and so long ago all at the same time. We are getting through this. Take care of yourselves.

Sincerely,

Nancy Berner

Provost