

April 28, 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. Given the number of protocols that have been submitted, it looks like we'll have a very busy summer!

We are planning for a mostly normal fall semester. Students and faculty should plan to be back on campus and in classrooms and laboratories next semester. We are not planning to have any travel or visitor restrictions in place for the Domain, and we expect to have a full slate of lectures, concerts, social activities, and athletic competitions. 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 Masking Requirement

Yesterday, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [updated public guidance for masking](#) while outdoors. During the pandemic, the University has aligned campus policies with CDC guidance in many different ways. Taking these new recommendations into account, the University masking policy is as follows, effective today:

- While *outdoors*: Masks are not required, regardless of vaccination status, with the exception of gatherings of more than 200 people.
- While *indoors*: Both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals must wear a mask at all times, unless alone, asleep, eating or drinking, or maintaining proper distance. (This has not changed.)

Updated Vaccination Information

In case you missed it, we [“Popped the Bubble”](#) on Monday! Citing our excellent mitigation strategies—the 3W’s, limiting travel, and weekly testing—and incredibly low positivity rate for undergraduate students (0.04% with only 7 positive results out of the more than 18,000 tests administered this semester), Dean Noffsinger-Frazier made the announcement. Limitations regarding movement on and off campus are lifted, as are 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. Masking remains important and required indoors, even for those who

are vaccinated. The 3W's—wearing your mask, watching your distance, and washing your hands—remain among the most effective mitigation techniques. We're still monitoring the number of vaccinated students and employees based on entries into [our database](#). For further information, you can check out [the FAQ](#).

Shots available on campus: The University has been able to arrange for Walgreens to administer [Moderna COVID-19 vaccines](#) on campus. Walgreens administered about 235 first and second doses last week. They are again providing vaccinations for students *and employees* on campus tomorrow (Thursday, April 29) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you plan to get vaccinated at the Fowler Center tomorrow, please help us ensure there are adequate supplies and staff on-site [by answering these questions](#). In addition, University Health Service has resumed offering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to students.

To find other vaccination sites near Sewanee, use [vaccinefinder.org](#). All U.S. residents ages 16 and up are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. 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](#).

COVID-19 Testing

Another 1,903 tests were administered last week with no one testing positive, for 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 happening this week. Thanks to the data collected from the EQB Reflection & Response gatherings held earlier this semester, a short list of proposed institutional values is being shared. I hope you have had a chance to 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. If you have not yet had a chance to join, the final gathering is scheduled for tomorrow [via Zoom](#): Thursday, April 29, 1-2 p.m.

UPDATED University-sponsored international travel: A few weeks ago the Office of Global Citizenship announced that the University will begin to authorize requests for international travel using University funding. However, this week the office announced a reversal of that decision. The [State Department has adopted a new methodology](#) for determining travel advisories, which has resulted in 80% of the countries in the world being assigned a Level Four travel advisory as of April 21. The State Department's new methodology follows travel health recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control. The University does not permit official travel to destinations that carry a Level Four travel advisory from the U.S. State Department, and therefore the University will not sponsor international travel. The Office of Global Citizenship will continue to monitor the State Department travel advisory levels and will answer any questions that you have related to the travel policy. Please feel free to contact Andrea Del Balso (asdelbal@sewanee.edu) or Abby Colbert (ajcolber@sewanee.edu) for more detailed information about travel restrictions to specific destinations.

Sincerely,

Nancy Berner