

September 15, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

### **University News**

**Fall gowning:** We are doing something a little different for the gowning ceremony this year in order to adhere to current capacity limits in All Saints' Chapel. Most of the family members who come for the gowning will watch the Fall Gowning Convocation livestreamed in Guerry Auditorium. Meanwhile, we will start the Convocation in All Saints' Chapel with all the new inductees and the person who will gown them present. When the names of each new inductee is read, the student and their gowner will stand, leave the chapel, and move to join their guests in the Quad. At the same time, the guests in Guerry Auditorium will move to the Quad, where they will meet their student. This rearrangement will allow us to have the Convocation service in the chapel while still allowing parents and families to be with their student at the moment they receive their gown. This weekend is Family Weekend; you can find the full schedule of events at this [website](#).

**Vice-Chancellor installation postponed:** As was announced on Monday, the Vice-Chancellor Installation Committee has heard a number of reservations expressed recently by invited guests and participants concerning the health risks related to traveling at this time. Following careful consideration, the University made the difficult decision to postpone the vice-chancellor's installation service and events originally scheduled for Oct. 5-8. We made this decision now in order to give attendees time to adjust their travel plans and to avoid the cost of finalizing contractual arrangements for the event. Please note that this decision has no impact on other campus events currently scheduled for this fall. We will provide additional information about rescheduling the installation and associated events for a later date.

### **Vaccination Information**

The Public Health Office and University Health Service are available to help answer your questions or concerns, and to help members of our community find vaccinations. In addition to Walgreens staff offering vaccinations on campus, you can find local vaccination sites nearby by using [vaccinefinder.org](https://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](#). 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.

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](mailto:philip.loyd@sewanee.edu).

**Vaccination requirement:** 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: The deadline for exemptions to be submitted was last week, and vaccination clinics are being held on campus. *Upcoming 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.

### **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 few weeks. ***If you are vaccinated but have not yet done so, please upload a copy of your vaccination card to [vaccine.sewanee.edu](http://vaccine.sewanee.edu) as soon as possible.***

### **Masking Policy Reminder**

Now that the campus is full, don't forget the [University's masking policy](#). For the most up-to-date information, check the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and look for email announcements. It is easy to forget that even fully vaccinated persons need to mask indoors. Please be gracious in reminding others of the masking policy, and when you are reminded!

### **From My Perspective**

I want to apologize for the confusion that the changing COVID-19 procedures caused recently. The University's strategy from the beginning of the semester has been to depend upon vaccination and masking, as those measures are most effective in preventing serious illness. When we started to see a higher number of positive tests two weeks ago, we strayed from our original strategy by testing all students. While the testing did allow us to get a clearer picture of the prevalence of the virus on campus, it had several downstream effects that I did not anticipate, culminating in confusion across campus.

Sincerely,

Nancy