

September 22, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

First, I want to let you know that I will not send my regular weekly update next week. I will be out of the office between now and then.

Changes to vaccination requirement deadline

As was announced this morning, the University has provided added time for employees and students to meet its [COVID-19 vaccination requirement](#). The Oct. 8 deadline for everyone to receive at least one shot of a two-shot regimen coincides with our final on-campus vaccination event. Those who have been waiting to see their physician in order to obtain medical information related to a medical exemption from vaccination may be given an extension to do so. Additionally, in some cases a physician may recommend that vaccination be delayed for medical reasons, and such a delay may also be allowed without the need for an administrative leave.

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.

Town Halls with the Vice-Chancellor

Vice-Chancellor Brigety will hold two Town Hall discussions in the coming days, both in Convocation Hall with the option of participation by Zoom. He will host the faculty at 5 p.m. today, and staff at 9 a.m. Monday, Sept. 27. The purpose of these sessions is to discuss the University's COVID-19 policies and to address some of the questions that have been submitted.

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.

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.

COVID-19 Dashboard

Keep track of our testing results and vaccination rates by visiting the University's [COVID-19 dashboard](#). You'll see some big changes since we started publishing our vaccination information. The dashboard is being updated as data are available throughout the week. It is important that the data we display publicly are 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 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!

Cabinet News

Student Success: Under the leadership of Lisa Stephenson, the student success group is in the process of conducting an in-depth study on retention and student success. The study, which will be performed in four phases, will directly link qualitative and quantitative data to student performance, retention, and graduation. **Phase I: From admission to before students even start classes.** This portion of the project will identify students more likely to need support even before they get to campus in order to provide proactive interventions to help them succeed. **Phase II: Academic success in the first term/year.** Past Sewanee data will be reviewed to better understand how low grades (D/F/W) early in the academic career affect student success measures such as credits earned, cumulative GPA after the first year, and eventual graduation. **Phase III: Qualitative survey research.** Factor analysis of qualitative data such as NSSE survey results and housing preferences will be employed to develop scales of student risk and success. **Phase IV: Student experience.** This final phase will look at the effect on student outcomes of various aspects of the Sewanee experience, such as participation in athletics, internships, Greek Life, study abroad, and other activities.

Innovative student programs in the Sewanee Police Department (SPD): The SPD is partnering with South Central Tennessee Area Transportation Service to provide a shuttle service for campus and the surrounding area. The service will be provided as part of a federal grant. It will provide daily shuttle service around campus Monday through Friday; local transportation to doctor's appointments and to the Smokehouse for Groome shuttle drop-off; and transportation to larger cities in the region, specifically Chattanooga, Huntsville, Nashville, and possibly Atlanta. The program is in the review process and we hope to have it up and running by next semester. SPD is also working with University partners to re-establish Bacchus weekend transportation.

The SPD is beginning to develop an Explorer-style program for students interested in law enforcement. The program will give students an opportunity to hear about different career opportunities in the federal law enforcement realm, and will be similar to Explorer programs hosted by larger departments nationwide. The SPD will also host a seminar that will include

guests from several federal law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Marshals Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of Energy, the U.S. Secret Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and others.

Other University News

Update on strategic planning: As I've mentioned previously, the University is embarking on a strategic planning process that will take place over the course of this academic year. We invite all students, staff, and faculty to follow our progress and to get involved. Strategic Planning Committee members have participated in workshops to gain a common understanding of the strategic planning process, build teamwork, and develop a shared sense of our vision for the plan. Information about workshops, committee (and subcommittee) membership, the planning timeline, minutes from meetings, and other materials related to the planning process can be found at a Brightspace course titled "Strategic Planning 2026." If you have not used Brightspace before, you can access it from the [Registrar's homepage](#) by clicking on "Brightspace" at the top. You will be prompted to log in with your Sewanee credentials (username and password). After that, choose "Discover" at the top of the page, then "Strategic Planning 2026," and finally "Enroll in Course." These steps are also outline in the attached pdfs. Throughout the year, we will provide updates on the planning process.

Family Weekend: Thank you to everyone who helped us host a successful Family Weekend last weekend. More than 1,100 families pre-registered, and the campus was packed and buzzing for several days. The new format for the gowning ceremony worked, and many students and families enjoyed the picnic in the Quad (while the rain held off). Even with the rain that fell on Saturday, families just seemed to be happy to be here, especially after we did not hold Family Weekend last year. I appreciate the hospitality you showed them and your effort to make the weekend a success!

Sincerely,

Nancy