

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
November 20, 2020

Pandemic/Post Pandemic Work Groups (#771)

Provost Bourgeois and guest Dr. Vedaraman Sriraman met with President's Cabinet to discuss recommendations from the Commencement Planning Work Group.

Guest Chief Medical Officer Dr. Emilio Carranco began the meeting with an update on COVID-19 cases. Texas is at the beginning of a surge. For the week of November 9, 2020, case counts in Texas were about 8,000 per day and the positivity rate was 12.4 percent. For the week of November 16, 2020, case counts increased to about 8,700 per day while the positivity rate decreased to 12.1 percent. Dr. Carranco reported that the case counts in Hays and Williamson counties are increasing, as well. At Texas State, however, case counts are trending downward. For the first few days of the week of November 16, 2020, the Student Health Center and Curative, Inc., performed 1,230 tests, with 29 returning positive for a positivity rate of 2.4 percent. This number is incomplete for the week of November 16, 2020, as two days of test results have not come in. Dr. Carranco is expecting the numbers to trend lower. Given the lower numbers on the Texas State campuses, Dr. Carranco surmised that Texas State's health and safety measures are working.

Dr. Carranco summarized recent discussions had by the Health, Wellness, and Safety Work Group.

- The work group is concerned with people not reporting to Bobcat Trace; some members reported hearing that pockets of the campuses are not adhering to the health and safety measures.
- Given that 40 percent of individuals with COVID-19 are asymptomatic, temperature checks and daily symptom screening may not be necessary for the general population, but should still be required in certain settings, such as the Student Health Center and the Child Development Center.
- Contact tracing has revealed no evidence of transmission, yet lots of students have been placed in quarantine because they were within six feet of a person with COVID-19.
- No outbreaks have occurred in the Residence Halls, though there have been some roommate-to-roommate transmissions.
- Exposure is greatest in social gatherings, regardless of size of the gathering.

RTA: 11/30/20 Discuss new recommendations from the Health, Wellness, and Safety Work Group.

Dr. Sriraman summarized responses to the commencement registration form. RSVPs for the make-up ceremonies scheduled for December 10, 2020, indicate that 156 signed up for the 9:00 a.m. ceremony, 625 for the 2:00 p.m. ceremony, and 190 for the 7:00 p.m. ceremony. Cabinet

members suggested collapsing the 9:00 a.m. ceremony and the 7:00 p.m. ceremony into one ceremony and holding make-up ceremonies at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. RSVPs for the fall commencement ceremony scheduled for December 11, 2020, indicate that 619 signed up for the 9:00 a.m. ceremony, 561 for the 2:00 p.m. ceremony, and 595 for the 7:00 p.m. ceremony. Students will be allowed to invite four guests. Candidates and groups of guests will be at least six feet apart.

Cabinet members discussed concerns raised about bringing people from outside the community into the San Marcos community. Dr. Breier reported that 96 percent of Texas State students and 88 percent of alumni are from Texas, with more than 60 percent living between in Georgetown and San Antonio. The students graduating this fall are already living in the San Marcos community. For those participating in make-up ceremonies, it is likely that many will be able to drive in and out of the community, on the same day, minimizing the number of people requiring hotels or visiting restaurants.

Cabinet members discussed that on average, about 10 percent of the capacity of Bobcat Stadium will be used for the in-person ceremonies. Faculty and the majority of staff involvement in the in-person commencement ceremonies is voluntary. Every effort is being made to secure as many staff volunteers as possible.

Dr. Carranco shared that testing appointments on the San Marcos Campus have been filled, but another testing site is available at the San Marcos Outlet Malls. Dr. Carranco will send out a message to the university community about this additional testing site.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on November 25, 2020.