

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
October 26, 2020

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Guest Dr. Emilio Carranco provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic trends at the national, state, and local levels. Parts of the United States and Texas are experiencing surges, with the wave expected to crest sometime during the holiday season. COVID-19 metrics (e.g., case counts and positivity rates) in Texas are trending upwards. Compared to the week of October 12, 2020, the positivity rate increased from 8.3 to 9.1 percent. In Williamson County, new cases decreased from 31.4 to 28.3 cases per day, and the positivity rate decreased from 2.5 to 2.2 percent; and in Hays County, new cases changed from 16.9 to 18.9 cases per day and the positivity rate decreased from 16.3 percent to 15.8 percent.

In the fourth week of Curative, Inc.'s, COVID-19 testing, 992 tests were conducted, with 12 returning positive. During the same week, the Student Health Center conducted 364 tests, with none returning positive. Overall, 1,356 on-campus tests were conducted, with 12 returning positive (0.9 percent), during the week of October 19, 2020. Positivity rates have declined three weeks straight from 2.5 percent during the week of October 5, 2020, to 1.6 percent during the week of October 12, 2020, to 0.9 percent during the week of October 19, 2020. Texas State case counts continue to remain low. At present, there are 44 active cases. The number of students housed in isolation is two and in quarantine is one. Dr. Carranco provided a COVID-19 update for other universities. At The University of Texas at Austin, the positivity rate has decreased from 0.7 to 0.4 percent. However, at Texas A&M University, the positivity rate increased from 3.2 percent to 5.3 percent. Contact tracing at Texas State has yet to reveal evidence of transmission in classrooms, residence halls, or offices.

Dr. Carranco announced that COVID-19 testing numbers on the dashboard include both Curative, Inc., and SHC testing numbers. Dr. Carranco and Dr. Lloyd will look into the feasibility of adding quarantine and isolation data to the Dashboard.

Off-campus social gatherings with friends and family continue to be the primary concern for transmission. Dr. Carranco discussed a messaging campaign focused on gathering with friends and family during the holidays in safe ways.

Dr. Cavitt announced that all residents have been moved out of Sterry Hall to accommodate students in quarantine and that there is a building in Bobcat Village to accommodate students in isolation.

Returning to face-to-face after the Thanksgiving holiday was discussed. Provost Bourgeois announced that he has granted faculty discretion in instructional delivery the final week of face-to-face classes after Thanksgiving. Cabinet members agreed that the face covering policy and enforcement strategies continue to be integral to mitigating COVID-19 spread.

Dr. Carranco reviewed the Center for Disease Controls new guidelines for Texas State contact tracers to use when evaluating close contacts of positive cases.

Mr. Algoe led a discussion on developing a COVID-19 vaccination plan. President Trauth will charge a COVID-19 vaccination plan work group, led by Dr. Carranco, to develop the plan. Dr. Lloyd will work with Dr. Carranco to identify members of the work group.

Inclusion and Diversity (#747)

Mr. Algoe, Dr. Lloyd, and guests Mr. Sherwynn Patton, Executive Director, Life Anew; Kim Patton, Executive Director, Life Anew; and Ms. Iris Savage, Owner, DMP Coaching, LLC, discussed revisions to the proposed "Roadmap to Equitable Relationships" submitted by Life Anew. Cabinet members engaged in a discussion on the cohorts that should be involved. Due to time constraints, the Cabinet members will continue the discussion at the next Cabinet meeting.

RTA: 11/02/20 Continue discussion on proposed "Roadmap to Equitable relationships."

President's Update (#556)

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

Significant Issues (#01)

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

DMT:ta

Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on November 13, 2020.