

To: President's Cabinet
From: Denise M. Trauth
Subject: President's Cabinet Meeting
April 1, 2022

Impact of COVID-19 (#770)

Dr. Carranco compared data for the week ending on March 27, 2022, to data for the week ending on March 20, 2022.

Week-to-week comparisons revealed:

- In Texas, the average daily case counts increased from 1,295 to 3,861 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 2.3 to 2.7 percent.
- In Williamson county, the average daily case counts increased from 13 to 24 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 1.7 to 4.3 percent.
- In Travis county, the average daily case counts increased from 52 to 99 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased from 2.8 to 4.0 percent.
- In Hays county, the average daily case counts decreased from 17 to 14 cases per day, and the average daily positivity rate increased 2.4 to 3.6 percent.
- In Texas, hospitalizations decreased from 1,524 to 1,182.

On the Texas State campuses, there were 11 positives out of 660 tests for a positivity rate of 1.7 percent.

COVID-19 Community Levels, as defined by the CDC, are “low” in Hays, Williamson, and Travis counties, while transmission levels in the three counties are “moderate.”

COVID-19 case counts and positivity rates increased compared to the previous week for two probable reasons: spring break and Omicron BA.2. Texas State will continue to monitor metrics to determine if a trend is developing. Hospitalizations, however, continue to fall.

Federal funding for COVID-19 testing has ended, and it is unclear when Congress might renew the funding. Curative and MD Diagnostics will no longer provide free testing for uninsured persons. With Omicron BA.2 spreading and causing more infections, it is important to maintain access to testing. Free rapid antigen tests can be ordered from the federal government at [covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov). Alternatively, single at-home rapid antigen tests are being provided by the university at no cost to uninsured students through the Student Health Center.

Currently approved m-RNA vaccines are effective against Omicron BA.2 and remain the safest way to develop immunity. However, for the best protection, persons should get a booster. Studies indicate that vaccine effectiveness decreases four to five months after a booster. The CDC has now approved a second booster of Pfizer or Moderna for persons 50 and older to be administered at least four months after the first booster.

Expecting that COVID-19 spread and rates will become more predictable, like the flu, Cabinet members discussed the need to shift from a pandemic to an endemic mindset and approach:

- Contact tracing will be paused at the end of this semester. However, it will be reengaged if a surge emerges.
- The Roadmap will transition to a resource page on the Student Health Center website.
- Dr. Carranco will send updates when necessary.
- Accommodations related to COVID-19 granted through the ADA process will expire on May 31, 2022. However, they may be reinstated on a temporary basis in the event of a surge.

Communications After Action Report to Cabinet: Winter Storm Uri

Mr. Pierce provided an update related to the implementation of a RAVE emergency opt out protocol. Faculty, staff, and student cell phone numbers in Banner are now being pulled automatically into the system.

Inclusion and Diversity (#747)

Dr. Silva discussed Cabinet member's responses to the Council for Inclusive Excellence document titled "Themes and Recommendations for Building Equitable Relationships Across Texas State University." Cabinet members received feedback and will have until April 8, 2022, to update their responses. The final draft will be shared with the Council for Inclusive Excellence before their April 22, 2022, meeting.

Sole Finalist for President

President Trauth announced that the Dr. Kelly Damphousse, the sole finalist for president, will visit the San Marcos and Round Rock Campuses on April 13 and 14, 2022. His itinerary was discussed; students, faculty, staff, donors, and key partners in the community will be invited to meet with Dr. Damphousse over the two-day visit.

President's Update (#556)

President Trauth and Mr. Pierce discussed Texas State's approach to cybersecurity insurance.

President Trauth announced that she will appoint a presidential task force on student health and wellbeing.

Significant Issues (#01)

Provost Bourgeois provided a preliminary update on fall 2022 enrollment and research expenditures.

Mr. Algoe provided an update to operations on the Round Rock Campus. A Director of Campus Operations, who will report to Mr. Algoe, will be created.

Mr. Algoe discussed a process for requesting the use of green spaces on the university campuses. A new green space use request webform has been developed. After the meeting, Mr. Algoe will share the form with Cabinet members and welcome any feedback that they may have.

Mr. Ekin announced that the minor in data science feasibility report has been submitted to Provost Bourgeois for review.

Dr. Hernandez announced that services provided by the Division of Student Affairs on the Round Rock Campuses are being reviewed, updated, and enhanced.

Mr. Pierce announced an update to the TXST mobile app; electronic student IDs will be in the app for validation. Mr. Pierce added that KTSW is featured in the app.

Dr. Silva announced the DEIA Network, tasked with raising awareness of DEIA initiatives throughout the university, convened on March 25, 2022. Resources will be added to the Chief Diversity Officer webpage and a process for sharing DEIA communication will be developed.

Dr. Silva announced that the new Jewish faculty and staff affinity group will be holding their first meeting on April 1, 2022.

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Posted to web at <http://cabinet.president.txstate.edu/> on April 15, 2022.