

Jan. 28, 2022

Faculty, Staff and Students,

Due to the high case rates in Clay County, the temporary mask mandate on-campus will be extended through February 11.

Operation Resurgent Campus

The current case rate in the county has declined 34% week over week, down to 806, and while cases are decreasing rapidly, the risk to College operations remains high. Extending the mask order for an additional two weeks, while cases continue to decline, will support ongoing business continuity and avoid the risk of short-term closures similar to that in local school districts. Cases on campus have declined from last week's high, to 12. Also, most cases from last week have returned to activity. The College remains at Operation Resurgent Campus Level A-2.

Good News

The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) shared that our current decline is consistent with what has occurred earlier this month in eastern states and should return to a lower case status within a week or so. Positivity rates state-wide are likely to remain high for some time, as Omicron moves out of the metropolitan areas and into more rural areas with fewer tests administered and lower vaccination rates. But the steep decline in the Kansas City and St. Louis metropolitan areas is encouraging that relief is near.

The [CDC released a seroprevalence report](#) that suggests the Kansas City region could have as high as 92% of individuals with developed antibodies against infection, through either natural infection or vaccinated immunity. The state is "actively considering options" in announcing a transition to an endemic in the state, similar to Kansas. This will come with several changes in case management, and should help us move back towards normalcy; however, is unlikely to occur until the Omicron surge has reached bottom.

Campus Vaccination

Thank you to those who participated in this week's vaccination clinic and to those of you who have submitted updated records. The county health department and Heart-to-Heart commended the Jewell community in our hospitality and kindness. Thank you. As a reminder, if you are not currently eligible for the booster due to the date of your last dose or because of a recent positive test for COVID-19, please schedule an appointment with a local clinic as soon as you are eligible and symptom free. The Liberty HyVee normally has many daily opportunities.

[CVS](#)

[HyVee](#)

[Walgreens](#)

[More opportunities in Clay County](#)

Reminder

If you are feeling unwell, please take a COVID-19 PCR test available on campus, see the Student Health Center, or visit your primary care provider.

Daniel Holt

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