

Oct. 22, 2021

Faculty, Staff and Students,

COVID numbers continue to improve weekly throughout the [country](#), state and county. [Clay County](#) has dropped to 136 weekly new cases (per 100K) for the period of October 10-16, more than 100 fewer per week than experienced throughout most of September (Summer high of 303 from 8/8-8/14). For a fourth consecutive week, the percent of persons testing positive is declining below 10%, levels not seen since the week of Fourth of July. The [state dashboard](#), which has slightly less lag in reporting (period of October 13-19), reports 115 new cases per week and a positivity rate of 6.6%. These suggest that in a span of a week or two, the county may have fewer than 100 cases per for the first time since early-July. [Kansas City](#) is also seeing similar improvement, with an average cases per day of 86 over the last 30 days, compared to an average cases per day of 58 over the last 7 days.

At Jewell, there was one case reported on campus this week, and was the only positive result in 48 tests administered.

The college's vaccination rate remains unchanged. More information is being released on the difference between natural immunity and vaccinated immunity. A [release](#) by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD) provides more information. The FDA will discuss the vaccine for ages 5-11 next week and, if approved, may be available by November 8 and a driving factor in reducing positivity rates.

The Operational Planning Team is monitoring these numbers closely as it pertains to any potential transition from Level A-2 to Level A-1 of the ORC framework, and clarification of protocols within A-1. Currently, the college is at Level A-2.

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