

July 30, 2021

Faculty and Staff,

Below are critical updates regarding Operation Resurgent Campus beginning in August. More information is to be presented on August 12.

Vaccination

The College's efforts to collect vaccination records of students, faculty and staff is underway with a deadline of August 1. Please be certain to submit copy of your vaccination record card or statement of exemption to Human Resources by emailing them to vaccine@william.jewell.edu. Your responses will be used to ensure that the College is on target for a 75% vaccination acceptance campus wide. The employee vaccination rate is currently 86%.

Students are currently submitting their information to the Student Health Center. To date, 70.2% of students have initiated the vaccine and 61.8% have completed with approximately 81% of students reporting. These numbers suggest that we will hit the 70% student goal once all students have had an opportunity to complete their vaccination cycle. The current exemption rate is 9%.

Aggregately, the College's vaccination-initiated rate is 73.2%, 67.4% completed full vaccination, with less than 20% remaining to report. Our goal is 75% fully vaccinated, which we expect to meet in late August.

COVID-19 Delta Variant

The recent surge of the Delta variant within Missouri has reached the KC metro. We are in communication with our community partners and will continue to monitor its impact to the College. Breakthrough cases for vaccinated individuals is around 10% while all hospitalizations and deaths (locally) are of unvaccinated individuals. Evidence shows that the vaccines continue to perform well in preventing severe symptoms from the Delta variant.

Effective Monday, August 2, the College is providing interim guidance that **all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals are required to wear facial coverings indoors** through Tuesday, August 31. The recently released information from the CDC indicates that vaccinated individuals are capable of carrying a high viral load that is transmissible to vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals and is a risk to College operations. As such, the College will implement this temporary measure until the incidence rates show a steady decline, which is expected to occur in 4-6 weeks.

Testing of all employees will occur on Friday, August 6 in Yates 221/222. As was helpful at the beginning of each semester last year, gathering positivity rates to start the academic year is important in building confidence in our community. Individuals who will not be on campus Friday, August 6th may obtain a [free test at this site](#) (MO residents only). Kansas residents may find their nearest free testing site [here](#). All test results should be submitted to [Human Resources](#) by August 13. Testing of students will begin August 7 with the arrival of the football team.

The rising cases in the Clay County Public Health Center jurisdiction will prevent us from transitioning to Level A-1 in August, as hoped. [Current data](#) has the status of Red, which indicates high community transmission. We will continue to monitor the county dashboard and await for a Yellow status, indicating lower 7-day new cases and steady toward decreasing incidence rates.

Common Question

Many questions have been asked about visitors on campus this academic year. Visitors are permitted on campus; however, rather than attempting to obtain vaccination status from each, we will require facial coverings from all visitors, vaccinated and unvaccinated, when indoors. Signs will be posted on Curry, Mabee, PLC, Gano and Yates (as the main entry points for visitors) indicating as such, and applicable to all facilities. As you communicate and/or invite visitors to campus, please assist the College in making this known.

We still have every intention of delivering the full experience to our students this academic year. Despite the current situation in Missouri, we are confident that the vaccination rates on campus will be high enough to achieve micro-herd immunity thereby allowing us to move forward in our plans.

Please plan to join us on August 12 at 1 p.m. for a presentation on Operation Resurgent Campus.

Daniel Holt
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