Sept. 12, 2021

Faculty, Staff and Students,

**ORC Update**
The current ORC Level is A-2. For the second consecutive week, the Clay County incidence rate is Yellow (decreasing) as cases decline in the county and Kansas City jurisdictions as well as State wide.

As of Friday, the College has reached an 85.2% completed vaccination rate. We remain on a trajectory to reach 87% given time to accomplish second doses of the vaccine. Our exemption rate is flat to slightly decreasing at 11.1%, as previously exempt individuals complete vaccination. Approximately 2% of reporting remains to be verified due to incomplete information and/or discrepancy.

There are currently two active cases in isolation. Both individuals are vaccinated. Since the majority of testing completed August 24th, the positivity rate has been 2.2% (2/88).

**Upcoming Changes**
It is important to provide advance notice and preview to upcoming changes to the ORC Framework. The guidance and framework was published in June, prior to the rise in Delta variant cases. From August 2nd to August 31st the College operated under interim guidance that has since expired. Effective immediately, the following clarification, updated guidance and framework adjustments are being implemented:

- During Level A-2, facial coverings are not required indoors by vaccinated individuals, but are encouraged for all who choose to wear one.
- During Level A-2, **facial coverings are required by unvaccinated individuals when indoors**, excluding personal office, residential room, or activity prevented by or harmful with a facial covering (e.g. eating or drinking, showering, strenuous physical activity, etc.).
- Faculty, as stated in the syllabus, may require facial coverings from both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals while in the classroom. Students, please refer to your course syllabus.
- Quarantine and Isolation procedures presented in August.
  - Vaccinated close contacts are not required to quarantine after a known exposure, but **must** test between day 3-5 and wear a facial covering for 14 days. Isolation will begin if the test result is positive.
  - Unvaccinated individuals will quarantine (14 days) after a known exposure.
  - All individuals will quarantine if experiencing symptoms (although most will test in lieu of quarantine) and isolate (10 days) if presenting a positive test result.
- Offsite test results **must** be reported to Human Resources (employees) or Student Health Center (students).

The online guidance is in the process of being updated and will be republished this week.

Unvaccinated individuals who are reported to Human Resources or Student Life and are found to have violated the College’s facial covering policy will be subject to a disciplinary referral by the supervisor or the Student Conduct Committee.

**White House Announcement**
In response to President Biden’s call to action for employers with more than 100 employees, unvaccinated employees can expect to hear more about logistics related to weekly testing requirements. All unvaccinated employees will be required to submit weekly tests at their own expense, regardless of whether those tests are done on or off campus. The College is currently reviewing the executive order and will issue more guidance in the coming days.

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