

COVID -19 Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 21, 2021
Meeting Minutes

1. Safety Protocols-safety protocols were discussed and the group was reminded that at this time students and staff should be extremely cautious. Many people have begun to let their guard down and it is very important to reinforce safety protocols.
2. Visitors on Campus-The committee discussed having visitors on campus. There have been some visitors who have not checked in as they are required to do. It was suggested that another announcement reminding people that only visitors with College business are supposed to be on campus.
3. On Friday, January 15, 2021 ADHE hosted a meeting for Chancellors and Presidents and invited them to include others on their campuses. At least three people from PCCUA attended (maybe more) Friday's Zoom meeting. Dr. Jennifer Dillaha, the Arkansas Department of Health Medical Director of Immunizations and an Infectious Disease Specialist, was the featured guest. A major portion of the meeting was focused on COVID immunizations progress in Arkansas. After the meeting, Rhonda St. Columbia shared some of the important discussion points with the listserv. See a portion of her note below

- *ADH is trying to increase the number of vaccine providers, but the supply is not meeting the demand.*
- *Phase 1 (1A is health care workers)-there currently is not enough vaccine to go around*
- *Phase 1 1B is a much larger population and includes educators to vaccinate, yet the supply has not been increased.*
- *Will probably take at least 4 weeks to try to serve those listed in 1A and 1 B. This is a slow-moving process.*
- *There is not a difference in the 2 vaccines. One is not better than the other.*
- *Due to limited supply, higher risk individuals need to be first priority.*
- *Vaccine is 95% effective; 5% can still get COVID, but symptoms will be mild. It is 100% effective in preventing severe complications.*
- *If you have been COVID positive, you can get the vaccine as long as you are not acutely ill and are out of isolation.*
- *If you get the vaccine, for now, if exposed to someone positive or have symptoms, you will still have to quarantine.*

Other information included the following:

This is a first time for this kind of mass immunization drive and that means that many aspects of how this unfolds will change. Information about the virus changes regularly as we learn more about it.

4. Ridge Runner Recharge- Kim Kirby could not attend the meeting but shared with Dr. King that a survey had been sent to students asking them to identify specific meeting times which would meet their needs. This program offers short (an hour or less) Zoom sessions that focus on self-empowerment for the individual to develop strategies to become well in all dimensions: physical, emotional, and intellectual. Sessions are interactive, but also recorded for those who cannot attend. (Survey provided below.
5. Vaccine Readiness-reports on the vaccine dates and other information was provided. DeWitt-Dean's Pharmacy will be providing the shots on campus to employees but the date has not been set.
Helena-Hickory Hill Pharmacy will be providing the shots on campus on Tuesday, January 26 from 11:00-1:00.
Stuttgart-Baptist Health will be providing the shots at Stuttgart High School on Friday, January 22.

The group had a short discussion about the vaccine research and Blake Cannon, who has a Health Science background, shared that the technology used for the vaccine research has been going on for some time. Dr. King mentioned that in 2009 during the H1N1 Swine Flu pandemic and during the 1968 Hong Kong Flu pandemic vaccination research was important and that this kind of research is ongoing because pandemics happen when they happen and can't usually be predicted. Vaccine research used to develop the Coronavirus did not just start last year with the Coronavirus outbreak.

Other points made are listed:

- Just because you are vaccinated don't think you're immediately protected, you are not.
- Once vaccinated people need to continue practicing safety protocols
- Both Moderna (28 days for the second shot) and Pfizer (21 days for the second shot) have about the same effectiveness but people must take both shots.
- Herd immunity will take some time and there will probably need to be about 70% of the population vaccinated to have it.
- Just because you have had the virus does not mean that you should not get vaccinated. No one is sure how long immunity from having been sick lasts. Some say three months but it may be wise to go ahead and get vaccinated for a longer immunity.
- Choosing to take the vaccination is a personal decision left up to each employee. Vaccination administration costs are covered by insurance and those without insurance do not pay for the vaccine.

KIM KRIBY'S NOTE TO STUDENTS

Good afternoon Ridge Runners!

You may be familiar with our RIDGE RUNNER RECHARGE wellness program. For those not familiar with the wellness program: we offer short (an hour or less) Zoom sessions that focus on self-empowerment for the individual to develop strategies to become well in all dimensions: physical, emotional, and intellectual. Sessions are interactive, but also recorded for those who cannot attend. You can find the sessions from last semester in My Ridge Net. Just look for this icon:



We'd like your feedback as we plan our schedule for the Spring 2021 schedule. Please answer 2 quick questions in the survey below so we can get started.



click the link to the survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/27FY2WN>

Thanks,

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