

COVID-19 Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 15, 2021
2:00 PM

Current COVID Status

The COVID-19 Committee meeting for April 15 included a current Covid status update provided by Rhonda St. Columbia. She said that there had been five weeks with no cases. There was some activity this week but nothing definite. She shared that in the fall when we are open to full capacity that we will probably still continue contact tracing.

Phase IV-Community and Venue Subcommittee

Kim Kirby last week shared that the venue subcommittee felt that it would be okay to open in June for a few small college activities. Several pieces of information were related to equitable application of the policy on all campuses. The Committee felt that meetings should be for groups of ten or fewer. That the activity should be tied to the college mission and should not interfere with College activities. See suggested guidelines posted as the last items in the minutes. There was a discussion about the Fitness Center on the Helena Campus opening earlier than June 1. Some were concerned about assuring people that there would be clean exercise space. One person suggested that the person using the equipment clean before use. Others mentioned that other exercise spaces, even UAMS East, were open. There will be further discussion about this. Someone mentioned people could not exercise during work time. There is a possibility there could be extended hours. Stuttgart does not have a Fitness Center but DeWitt does so some of the issues discussed apply to that center.

Summer Protocols

The group examined summer protocols which will change after July 1 when the College opens for full service.

Vaccinations

A couple of people mentioned that the virus was not going to disappear when we reopen. There was mention of the low number of fully vaccinated people in the region and the state.

Protocols

The group discussed if the College needs protocols for fall. Fall 2021 protocols would not be requirements merely suggestions. The group reviewed the following items:

SUMMER SCHOL PROTOCOLS DISCUSSED

FACULTY & STUDENTS

1. CONTINUE WITH SCREENING/TEMP
2. WEAR A MASK
3. SOCIALLY DISTANCE
4. ENCOURAGE HAND WASHING AND USE OF SANITIZER
5. CLEAN WORK OR STUDY SPACE
6. CONTINUE CONTACT TRACING PROTOCOLS

The next discussion focused on the fact that fewer than 13-14% of the Arkansas population have had one vaccination shot and a slightly higher 17% of the population in state have been fully vaccinated. Therefore, the discussion was about whether some safety precautions should be suggested for fall. The following protocols were reviewed and discussed.

POSSIBLE RETURN TO CAMPUS PROTOCOLS FOR FALL 2021

1. ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO SELF SCREEN-DO WE WANT TO LEAVE THE TEMP STATIONS UP?
2. ENCOURAGE MASK WEARING-DO WE WANT SIGNAGE SIMILAR TO WHAT IS NOW POSTED?
3. ENCOURAGE SOCIAL DISTANCING-DO WE WANT SIGNAGE, ACTUAL DECALS ON THE FLOOR, ETC?
4. ENCOURAGE HANDWASHING-DO WE WANT THE SANITIZER LEFT IN PLACE
5. CLEAN WORK & STUDY SPACE-WOULD WE WANT TO SANITIZER AND THERMOMETERS LEFT IN THE CURRENT STATIONS?
6. WILL WE CONTINUE WITH CONTACT TRACING.

It was determined that a survey might be provided to Committee members to gain a clear idea about safety precautions we may want to consider recommending. Dr. King will try to get one ready. Dr. Johnson said she would like to hear from students. Dr. King, Dr. Johnson, and Debbie Hardy will work on this.

Fall 2021 was discussed and several questions were examined.

1. DO WE NEED TO CONTINUE WITH COMPUTER RENTALS?

Assuring Preparedness for Remote Pivot (covid, flu, storm, other)

A couple of faculty felt the following questions should go to Faculty Senate.

There is no question about having the plan, all faculty will have a plan. The issue was what process was the best way to do this.

1. SHOULD WE CONTINUE THE SAME REMOTE PLAN WE HAVE IN PLACE SO EACH FACULTY MEMBER COULD PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF REMOTE TEACHING IN EMERGENCIES.

This question is not about employees working remotely. It is about reaching students who are ill and must miss class or being prepared to pivot in an emergency.

1. HOW SHOULD EACH FACULTY MEMBER SUBMIT THE REMOTE PLAN TO DR. KING. THIS CAN BE POSTED ON THE WEB MUCH LIKE WE DID LAST YEAR. SHOULD WE HAVE A REMOTE PLAN FOR MOST EMPLOYEES IN THE EVENT OF A CAMPUS CLOSING FOR ANYTHING?

Dr. King shared the remote form used last year and asked if this form needed to be changed for **faculty needing to provide remote options for students.**

REMOTE WORK FORM

NAME:

DEPARTMENT:

SUPERVISOR:

DATE:

Please include a brief list of duties you performed each day or classes you taught. Do not include times or amount of work performed. This is mainly a document verifying that work was performed remotely in case it is requested at some point in the future.

This weekly verification is due every Friday at noon. This week send it Thursday.

Hopefully, a survey query can be sent to the Committee for input.

The Committee meeting closed after an hour and ten minutes.

Phase 4 Recommendations:

1. For use of space on campus from May 1-July 1
 - Allow for small groups of 10 or less
 - Must go through screening, masks required, social distancing
 - Event should be directly tied to the mission of the college (recruiting, scholarships, public school groups, etc.)
 - Should not interfere with classes or compromise social distancing with college functioning
 - We must have the ability to appropriately disinfect/clean the space (time, staff, supplies)
 - Continue to follow CDC and ADH guidelines
2. Outside spaces are still allowable
3. Fitness Facilities (HWH and DW)
 - No usage during May
 - Review guidelines for equipment spacing, air filtration, cleaning protocols and prepare plan
 - Consider faculty usage during June only during hours when staff is available for cleaning if all guidelines above have been implemented
 - Consider public use after July 1