

Covid Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 16, 2021
2:15 PM

The Covid Committee met and reviewed several items which needed to be clarified. The group determined and unanimously voted that during the Covid spike the group would meet every other week, not once a month.

The committee reviewed the Covid protocols which were determined from the survey outcomes but also by the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees recommendations in August. included the following:

1. All employees, students, and campus guests will wear masks in the buildings.
2. Social distancing is recommended-6 feet apart if possible.
3. Students and staff are encouraged to sanitize frequently and to self-screen. Thermometers are at the entrance to every building and so are sanitizers.
4. If you feel sick or have any symptoms for any illness, stay home.
5. We will continue to contact trace. Those infected or exposed to the virus should contact Rhonda St. Columbia at rhonda@pccua.edu or call (870) 338-6474 ext.1130

Several people asked about what to do about students who might be taking advantage of Covid to miss class. A subcommittee composed of Debby King, Kim Kirby, Kelly Roberts, and Rhonda St. Columbia indicated that they would look at what we should include when discussing absenteeism with students. They will try to have something ready for the next meeting.

The Covid faculty/staff survey and the student survey outcomes were discussed.

SURVEY FOR RETURN TO CAMPUS PROTOCOLS FOR FALL 2021

Please respond to the following questions as honestly as possible. Keep in mind that in the Fall of 2021 PCCUA will be completely open to all students. The UA System wants the College to operate as normally as possible with our schedules, student activities, and other campus events. Keeping that in mind and as a member of the COVID -19 Committee, could you share your thoughts about the following concerns. Keep in mind that the Committee makes College recommendations only. Practicing healthy and safe protocols in no way compromises the opening of our College.

1. Should we encourage students to self-screen? * Yes 23 or 85% No 4 or 14.8%

This can assist with things other than Covid, such as the Flu encourage, but not make a big deal about it.

I think are use to a good screening schedule, and it will help moving forward.

Encouraging self-screening reinforces the need to do it at home. However, we should still continue to offer screening stations on campus.

We should always promote public health.

I do not feel they will do it.

Our recommendation is to encourage self screening.

2. Do we want to leave the thermometers and sanitizer stations in place? * Yes 25 or 92.5% No 2 or .07%

No thermometers

let them be self-service, not monitored since it takes so much human capital. Also, unlock extra entrances.

Good for students and program

Some people do not have thermometers at home, and hand sanitizer is just good practice.

Just the sanitizer stations.

Have they been effective? Can students self screen in this manner?

I think it's the only type of control we have since students probably will not self report

Our recommendation if to leave the thermometers and hand sanitizers at the current screening stations.

3. Do we want to encourage students to wear a mask by providing signage? Wearing a mask is purely voluntary after July 1. * Yes 17 or 63% No 10 or 37%

Only if they are sick/potentially sick

My fear with this is that we would make students uncomfortable.

Keep in place

Yes, at least until July 1. However, unless a person has been vaccinated or has a natural immunity (from having Covid), masks should be worn when in close proximity to others or in groups. We do not want to discourage mask wearing. Wearing a mask during this epidemic has even reduced the number of flu cases.

I am o.k. with encouraging students to wear masks, however--I do feel that we need to be careful to not inadvertently cause those students who may choose to not wear a mask to feel "singled out," especially since they are purely voluntary after July 1.

If infection rates continue to wane locally, this may be unneeded. Faculty should have an option in small spaces with poor air flow.

Split responses. Recommendation is that student wear masks by personal choice only.

4. Do we want to encourage social distancing? * Yes 19 or 70% No 8 or 30%

If we continue the social distancing we will be causing problems with enrollment and with allowing students to interact together.

Encourage but not enforce

It is my understanding that CDC encourages and recommends distancing

Encouraged - yes, Mandated - no. Until this epidemic is under control, social distancing should be encouraged when people are not wearing masks. If they have a mask on, then social distancing should not be necessary.

Again, I am absolutely fine with encouraging social distancing, when doing so doesn't interfere with areas like college/class enrollment, for example.

See previous comments.

More were in favor of this but some were not. Recommendation is that social distancing will take place by personal choice.

5. Do we want to use social distancing in classrooms? Obviously, we can't do this for every class because enrollment figures control this. But under most circumstances, when seating allows this, are you in favor of spacing desks or seats? * Yes 19 or 70% No 8 or 30%

I would be in favor if it does not hamper enrollment or student learning

I think we can try to distance as much as possible. It may not be the 6 feet but any distance is better than none.

I think if students want to social distance, then they will do it on their own.

It may not have to be the full 6 feet but allowing room for students to space out would be good.

But maybe reduce distance to 3 feet

Besides the health reasons, spacing students out is good for testing, and most people like their space anyway.

*If spacing and numbers allow...I don't have an issue with it.
See previous.*

Recommendation is that faculty and staff determine their level of comfort and distance accordingly. However, if the space adequate, distancing is encouraged.

6. Do we want to continue the use of requesting students and staff to clean work and study spaces? * Yes 23 or 85% No 4 or 15%

*This will assist with preventing problems related to all viruses that can be spread.
latest CDC reports says the virus isn't spread on surfaces. Maybe in computer labs just for general hygiene.*

Always good to stay in mode

Although we should continue to provide cleaning products and hand sanitizer, wiping surfaces down each time is not necessary. Washing hands regularly is more important, and everyone should be reminded to do so.

I feel that cleaning of work spaces (even aside from pandemic) is a good practice.

Provide materials for students to preclean if desired.

Recommendation is that we continue requesting students to clean work spaces.

7. Do we need to continue with computer loans and access codes? * Yes 27 or 100% No 0

Our student body suffers from a digital divide and that will assist with allowing them to complete their work.

*this was a problem for some students before Covid and will continue to be an issue for some
Providing computers and access codes is helpful to students regardless of Covid. Many students do not have access to computers at home, and the access codes help classes to continue through situations such as power outages, bad weather, etc.*

The need will outlast the pandemic.

100% agreement in favor of this. Recommendation is to continue the loan of computers and assistance with access codes.

8. Do we need to have a COVID Committee? * Yes 24 or 88% No 3 or 11%

I do think we can decrease the number of meetings unless there is a change in numbers related to Covid or we have to examine new protocols.

maybe emergency response team? meet at least 1 time a semester unless we have an emergency

*I think that we have performed well; maybe meet quarterly to review and update
Right now, the Covid Committee has been instrumental in assimilating and communicating information to ensure we are all on the same page. However, as time progresses the need to continue the committee will diminish.*

*Yes, but meet only once a month until the end of the year.
If so, and if the current pattern of infection persists, it should meet less frequently, or as needed.*

Recommendation is to continue having a Corvid Committee.

9. If you answered “yes” to question number 8, how frequently does this committee need to meet? *

We can adjust that if there is a change.

Unless we need a called meeting and maybe weekly the first couple of weeks when we start back in the fall

Once a month until things are going smoothly then maybe a couple of times a semester.

Quarterly

*With increased vaccinations, the peak of this epidemic has passed. Meeting once a month should be sufficient.
reassess.*

More or less frequently if need be based on current CDC/ADH guidelines or reported numbers at the time.

Comment follows No. 8.

Twice a Year 6 or 22%

Twice a Semester 4 or 15%

Once a Semester 5 or 19%

Once a Month 12 or 44%

Most frequent response 44% at once a month. Recommendation is to meet once a month.

SURVEY FOR RETURN TO CAMPUS PROTOCOLS FOR FALL 2021 – PHILLIPS COUNTY

1. Should the college encourage students to self-screen?

Yes – 49 No – 4 No answer – 2

Comment: We are vaccinated.

Comment: Dedicated screeners do it better vs students.

2. Should the college leave the thermometers and sanitizer stations in place?

Yes – 54 No – 1

Comment: I think this would be a good idea during flu season, etc.

Comment: Free sanitizer will always be beneficial.

3. Should the college encourage students to wear a mask by providing signage?

Yes – 46 No – 9

Comment: Masks will not be necessary.

4. Do you think the college should encourage social distancing?

Yes – 52 No – 3

Comment:

5. Do you feel safer when we use social distancing in classrooms?

Yes – 50 No – 5

Comment:

6. Will you feel safer if we continue requesting students wipe clean their work and study spaces?

Yes – 54 No – 1

Comment:

7. Do we need to continue with computer loans and access codes?

Yes – 52 No – 2 No answer – 1

Comment: This is an impoverished town.

SURVEY FOR RETURN TO CAMPUS PROTOCOLS FOR FALL 2021 – ARKANSAS COUNTY

1. Should the college encourage students to self-screen?

Yes – 41 No – 5 No answer – 1

Comment: No one sick should be on campus.

2. Should the college leave the thermometers and sanitizer stations in place?

Yes – 44 No – 3

Comment: Better safe than sorry.

Comment: Sanitizer stations

Comment: To keep everyone safe

3. Should the college encourage students to wear a mask by providing signage?

Yes – 34 No – 13

Comment: But make sure it is aware it is not required.

Comment: To protect everyone

4. Do you think the college should encourage social distancing?

Yes – 37 No – 10

Comment: Encourage

Comment: It is really hard to do that.

5. Do you feel safer when we use social distancing in classrooms?

Yes – 30 No – 16 No answer – 1

Comment: Either way

Comment: Optional for groups in classroom.

Comment: Indifferent

Comment: Still in the same room

Comment: Did we really do that?

Comment: I got vaccinated

6. Will you feel safer if we continue requesting students wipe clean their work and study spaces?

Yes – 40 No – 6 No answer – 1

Comment: Either way

Comment: Indifferent

7. Do we need to continue with computer loans and access codes?

Yes – 38 No – 8 No answer – 1

Comment: Unsure

Comment: It helped people who were not financially able to