

Pandemic Response Team

August 11, 2021

Zoom

9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Dr. George Pimentel, President
Dr. Kyle Barron, Vice President of Student Services
Steve Cornelison, Director of Athletics
Dr. Patrick Davis, Dean of Academic Support
Tim Dellinger, Vice President of Financial and Administrative Affairs
Meda Falls, Director of Savannah Center
Heather Freeman, Administrative Assistant to the President
Dr. Liz Mayo, Faculty Council Representative
Shannon Mayo, Coordinator of Paris Site
John McCommon, Director of Public Relations and Marketing
Linda Nickell, Dean of Students
Dr. Tom Pigg, Dean of Health Sciences and CIT
Lisa Rojas, Director of Humboldt Center
Kristina Martin, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Student Services
Patti Tanski Mego, Professional Technical Council Representative
Sandy Stanfill, Director of Lexington Center
Christi Tall, Classified Council Representative
Preston Turner, Director of Physical Plant
Amy West, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Leslie West Sands, Dean of Nursing
Shane Young, Chief of Police

- **Welcome**
Dr. Pimentel began the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

- **COVID-19 Positive Case/Quarantine Report-**
TBR asked colleges to begin weekly reporting of positive COVID-19 cases for their internal review. We will follow the same protocol for collecting positive case numbers as we have previously with TBR reporting. Our campus contacts for COVID quarantines and isolations are Amy West for employees, Linda Nickell for students, and Shane Young for guests. They will send their reports to the President's Office for compiling and submission to TBR.
Positive case numbers for this week:
 - Faculty/Staff – 1 positive staff
 - Student – 1 positive student reported with following pending.
 - Guest – 1 positive guest

- Athletics– There are currently no athletic positive cases. They continue to follow league guidance and monitor for updates.
- **Discussion Items**
 - **Campus Operations – August 16**

The team discussed the returning all to campus on August 16. There is a delicate balance of keeping the college open and operational to those we serve and keeping our faculty, staff, students, and guests healthy. The team’s conversation was around the best defense against COVID-19 is the vaccine. However, vaccination is a personal choice. The decision was made to move forward with the plan to return to normal campus operations on August 16th and remain diligent with our campus safety practices of wearing masks when not in individual offices, washing hands, keeping distance when possible, and cleaning. A campus announcement with these practices and protocols for quarantine/isolations was sent out last week.

Physical Plant worked with Deans to removed seating from some classrooms where seating was tight. That will help with allowing more space in those areas as students return this fall.

The team discussed the challenges of quarantines/isolations for employees and students specific and the impact of quarantines/isolations of employees and students’ children. The federal Family First Coronavirus Relief Act provided up to 80 hours of paid for COVID related reasons as well as Emergency Medical Leave for 2/3 pay when children are unable to attend school due to school closing related to COVID. This Act is set to expire at the end of September with no current discussion of extending the end date. A large number of our employees have already exhausted their hours under this Act. Once used and off work, they will be required to use personal leave. The team discussed continuing to allow employees that can work from home the option when quarantined/isolated and able to fulfill their work responsibilities from home.

CDC guidelines provide allowance for local authorities to shorten quarantines. Some counties in our service area are shortening the recommended fourteen day quarantine for exposure. Madison County is recommending the fourteen day quarantine. Jackson State will follow the Madison County Regional Health Department’s recommendation of the fourteen day quarantine period.

A welcome e-mail is being drafted from Dr. Pimentel to students. The message will focus on welcoming students to campus but we need their help to keep them here. We want a welcoming environment so students feel engaged and connected while we follow safety protocols. We all need to remind students that wearing masks and maintaining distance is not punitive but is the best way to keep them healthy, in class, and meeting their educational goals.

As part of National Immunization Awareness Month, JSCC has contacted the Jackson Madison County Regional Health Department about offering a vaccination clinic on our campus. We are awaiting potential dates. Once those are determined, information will be shared with campus.

- **Masks**
 - Physical Plant has approximately 2,000 currently on hand and should be receiving 12,000 additional masks soon. They will be available across campus in designated areas.
 - Clear masks have been ordered for faculty and front line office staff. The estimated arrival is August 17.

- **In-Service Activities**
 - With the McWherter Center's HAVC project still on going, fall convocation will be recorded with the link sent to campus. If under the current campus status, Dr. Pimentel plans to meet with each employee group for an in person meeting later in the fall.

- **Future Meetings**
 - The team agreed to continue weekly standing meeting for the next few weeks.