

## Pandemic Response Team

November 4, 2021

Zoom

3:00 p.m.

### Attendees

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

### Absent:

Dr. Kyle Barron, Vice President of Student Services  
Meda Falls, Director of Savannah Center  
Timaria Glenn, SGA Representative

- **Welcome**

Dr. Pimentel began the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

- **New Covid-19 Legislation for Tennessee – Ominous Bill**

The following information was reviewed with the Pandemic Response Team members.

- *Covid-19 bill HB9077/SB9014 Unless Governor Lee were to veto the bill, it becomes effective on the earlier of either his signature or November 13. It will change what we worked on last week.*
- *Mask Prohibition: Effectively prohibits TBR institutions from requiring that students, employees, and visitors **wear masks**. We can still encourage masks on campus.*
- *Vaccination Prohibitions: TBR institutions cannot require employees or students either to get a COVID **vaccination or to provide proof of vaccination**.*

- *Quarantine Limitations: The Commissioner of Health has sole authority to **determine quarantine and isolation** guidelines. JSCC does not have the authority to quarantine anyone. We can't ask them to go home. (We can only request that they follow CDC guidelines. Colleges cannot require compliance with any requirements other than those set by the Commissioner of Health.*
- *Contact Tracing: Colleges will not conduct contact tracing. Only the Health department has the authority to **contact trace**.*
- *Clinical Affiliation and Training. **No change** in TBR processes related to clinical arrangements is necessary. Healthcare facilities that accept Medicare/Medicaid are permitted to require students and employees of TBR institutions to be vaccinated and/or to wear masks in order to participate in their programs. Any vaccination/masking requirements are those of the clinical partner, **not the college**. If a student or employee requests a medical or religious accommodation, the institution should work with the student or employee on an individualized, case by-case basis to determine if an alternative clinical placement is feasible. TBR is aware an alternate placement may not be possible.*
- *No TBR institution is permitted to take any adverse action to student, visitor, or employee for reasons related to masks, vaccinations, quarantine, or other safety issues related to Covid-19.*
- *The Comptroller can make exceptions to the vaccination and masking prohibitions in the Omnibus Bill.*
- ***Unless and until the Comptroller approves an exemption, neither TBR nor TBR institutions have the authority to enter into a contract or contract-like agreement covered by EO 14042***

A copy of the Ominous Bill overview noted above will be e-mailed to the Team. They are free to share the information with others. As a reminder, unless Governor Lee were to veto the bill, it becomes effective on the earlier of either his signature or November 13.

We are unsure of the impact to the athletic conference guidelines but will monitor information.

- **President's Executive Order 14042**  
The Executive Order 14042 was signed today. We will share any further guidance received from TBR.
- **Campus Communication**  
The team decided to change the language on campus signage from "Protective Face Covering Required" to "Protective Face Covering Encouraged". Mask language on the JSCC website will be further discussed and updated.
- **Impact on Health Sciences**  
Some health sciences programs are seeing enrollment impacted due to the vaccination requirements of clinical sites.