April 20, 2021 – Campuswide email

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

As we begin to see the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, I’m excited to see more activities around campus and increasing opportunities for us to get together for small, in-person events. Dina and I are looking forward to hosting our senior students in small gatherings starting next week over at the Craik House. This is made possible because of the fact that more of us have been vaccinated.

We now are working to have everyone on campus vaccinated so that we can return to a sense of “normalcy” as soon as possible. This morning, the COVID-19 Crisis Management Task Force recommended that if we can get campus-wide vaccinations to 70 percent, our first change should be to eliminate the requirement to wear masks when outside. I am happy to approve this and also consider further changes, which could be announced as early as next week.

Kay Drake reports that 69 percent of our faculty and staff are already fully vaccinated. However, Kendrick Durham reports that the number of students who have reported being fully vaccinated is only 25 percent.

I know that a much higher percentage of students have started or completed the vaccination process. To help us get to the point of relaxing more guidelines, I ask all students to please take a moment to send your vaccine information (a photo of your vaccine card) to the Office of Student Health in an email to Marsha Edelen at marsha.edelen@centre.edu. To anticipate how quickly we might get to 70 percent, I would also encourage any student who has received their first dose to report this, along with the date, to Marsha. Our 70 percent target will factor in first doses as well. To incentivize reporting, Student Health has just announced a series of prize drawings. (See the message from Kathy Jones.)

Right now, vaccines are easily accessible on campus and nearby:

- We have our third vaccine distribution event all day on Friday in Hazelrigg Gymnasium; sign up for your spot HERE
- Ephraim McDowell is also offering free walk-in appointments Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Boyle County Extension Office at 99 Corporate Drive, just 3 miles away off of Lebanon Road
The larger issue still under consideration is if we will require vaccinations for students this fall.

If you are following the news, more than 50 colleges or universities have already moved in this direction. We are currently exploring making this a requirement, and I have asked the Health and Safety Committee to offer a recommendation.

Because this direction may be inevitable, I strongly recommend that students move forward with the vaccination now. Additionally, any student who plans to participate in travel abroad, athletic competition, and off-campus internships this summer should strongly consider getting vaccinated, since Centre College has no control over access for students to off-campus sites.

Finally, I hope you’ll consider attending tonight’s convocation featuring Dr. Jeanine Abrams McLean, a noted biologist formerly associated with the CDC (and sister of Dr. Andrea Abrams), who will talk about “Vaccine Inequity in Communities of Color.” Register for this Zoom forum [HERE](#).

Sincerely,
Milton