

2022

## **COVID-19 Campus Update, January 27, 2022**

Eastern Michigan University

Friday, January 27, 2022

Campus Update – January 27, 2022

The following is an excerpt of President Smith's Jan. 27 message to campus as it pertains to the University's response to the pandemic:

To the Eastern Michigan University community,

Fortunately, we are beginning to see a slight decline in the number of COVID-19 cases across the state and nation over the record numbers from early January. Researchers are hopeful the latest wave has reached its apex. We are by no means out of the danger zone or at a point where we can rest on any successes, as case counts and hospitalizations remain very high.

As they have throughout the pandemic, the case numbers at Eastern Michigan University continue to average far below the region, state and nation. We believe this is directly attributable to our robust plans and policies to mitigate the spread of the disease in our community.

COVID-19 Cases, Dashboard, and Mitigation Efforts

For the second consecutive week, the number of COVID-19 cases involving students and employees has declined. Please visit the [University's COVID-19 Dashboard](#) to learn more.

Testing Center Extended Hours

The University's on-campus Testing Center has expanded its hours to include additional early-morning and evening appointments for employees and students to receive a free COVID-19 test on campus. Visit the [Testing Center website](#) for details.

Employee Vaccination/Testing Policy Underway

The University's mandatory vaccination/testing [policy](#) for employees is underway. We're pleased to report that since the policy was implemented, the number of regular employees who have reported that they are vaccinated has increased to 90.2% (up from 88.2% two weeks ago). This data is also reflected on the bottom of the dashboard. The remaining 9.8% of employees who are either unvaccinated or who have not reported their status, will undergo weekly testing until such time that they document they are vaccinated.

Student Vaccination Policies

Students who live in [on-campus housing](#), [student-athletes](#), and students who participate in [certain academic programs](#) are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. [All other students](#) with any in-person courses or who participate in on-campus activities must either be vaccinated against COVID-19 or undergo weekly COVID-19 testing.

### Face Masks Required Indoors

Reminder: All individuals (regardless of vaccination status) must wear face masks indoors with [limited exceptions](#). [Learn more](#) about the University's face mask policy and best practices for wearing face masks.

The University is providing free KN95 masks (up to two per person) and/or free EMU-branded three-layer green or white surgical masks to employees and students who want one. Masks are available at the following locations:

- Student Center Information Desk (900 Oakwood)
- Department of Public Safety Headquarters front desk (1200 Oakwood), and

Health experts also strongly recommend utilizing the “Knot & Tuck” method for wearing a face mask. It is shown to increase filtration by 21%. Watch this 50-second [video demonstration of the “Knot & Tuck”](#) method to learn more.

### Student and Employee Wellness

The University's Safe Return Steering Committee had a robust discussion this morning about the level of trauma, despair and anxiety caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on students and employees. The deep level of concern expressed among Committee members reflects observations in classes and in workspaces, both on campus and remote. The emotional challenges that many are experiencing are exacerbated by the length of the pandemic and the ongoing changes in guidelines and protocols that are necessary as a result of the variant strains of the virus.

With awareness of this extremely challenging environment, I implore you to be kind to one another, respect one another, and support one another. Be sensitive and empathetic to the difficulties that your friends and colleagues may be facing at school, at work and at home. If you are a student, I encourage you to utilize the resources of [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#). If you are an employee, please consider contacting the [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#).

Next Vaccine Clinic scheduled Feb. 19

The next community COVID-19 vaccine opportunity will take place on Saturday, Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in the Student Center Ballroom. The clinic is open to all persons 12 years of age and up, and no appointment is needed. Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson will be available. Booster shots, as well as first or second round

doses, will be provided. For booster shots, individuals must bring their vaccine card or an image of their vaccine card on their cell phone.

Vaccinations are also offered at the Campus Medical Pharmacy located inside the IHA Health Center @EMU. For additional details, please contact the pharmacy at [734.547.5995](tel:734.547.5995).

#### Health and Safety Reminder

Given the still high numbers of positive cases of COVID-19, it's important to reiterate some of the key safety protocols we should follow:

- Practice effective hand washing and the use of hand sanitizers;
- Wear face coverings, particularly when indoors in public areas;
- Observe physical distancing; and,
- Get vaccinated (or boosted) if you are eligible.

These actions, when taken together, dramatically reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19. And, vaccination minimizes the severity of cases in most situations, for those who do contract the virus.

As always, I thank you for your work on behalf of the University and your ongoing support of our #EMUSafe initiatives. Please continue to monitor your University email for future updates.

James Smith, Ph.D.

[See the President's Office page to [view the full message](#).]