

Dr. Jahnae H. Barnett, President

Restart of School Preparedness Committee Attendees: Scott Gallagher (Chair) / Jennifer Crump / Kathy Groves / Julie Houseworth / Peggy McGrew / Venita Mitchell / Kristen Oesch / Aimee Sapp / Mike Wills / Scott Zimmerman

List of Questions Addressed at Town Hall

1. Will Athletics be competing this semester and is there testing?
2. Can you update us on COVID testing?
3. Can you provide information regarding COVID vaccines?
4. Are there any changes to what we are doing in the classrooms?
5. Updates on holding meetings with students in-person or virtually; and provide a reminder about what we have been doing and will continue to do in regards to meetings, office set-ups, etc.
6. Ongoing practices such as providing release notes for students from quarantine/isolation; sharing of knowledge assisting Health Services; continued contact tracing on campus; 14-day quarantine; and response protocol for students.
7. Will Alumni Weekend 2021 be held?
8. What are Activity Days for students and when are they scheduled?
9. Faculty and staff access to Tucker and the Owls Nest?
10. Campus Events / Camps Management / Visitors Policy
11. Mask Policy

Question 1 – Will Athletics be competing this semester and is there testing?

- Athletics is already competing this semester and safely approaching the semester with various guidelines and protocols in place. Return to play documents are available on the William Woods Athletics website, www.uowls.com, along with a link to the American Midwest Conference Return to Play protocols ... <https://www.uowls.com/.../mens-soccer-amc-statement-on-return-to-play-for-the-2020-21-school-year.aspx>.
- Athletics came back with Men's and Women's Basketball and started by testing both programs. We had no positive results when they came back and we were off and running. Our COVID screening procedures from fall semester continue in the spring semester.
- Each student athlete, every coach, and every staff member in the Athletics Department get screened at least once a day and, on some occasions, twice a day.
- Athletics continues exploring some additional testing options for other teams for the remainder of the spring semester.
- Also, coaching staff and the rest of Athletics staff members will continue to assist with meal deliveries for students in isolation, and continue assisting maintenance with sanitation duties around our facilities.
- Games are already underway – both home games and road games, and have gone off very well thus far.
- We will start the semester with no spectators and, as guidelines are currently set, allowing spectators at indoor events would be a challenge due to spacing limitations under current CDC guidelines.
- Optimistic that we can accommodate a limited number of fans once we get to outdoor sports.
- All teams will be competing this spring. There could be days when we have six (6) teams out, eight (8) teams out, so classes could look small as all teams, fall and spring, are competing because no one competed in the fall semester.
- All teams are doing reduced schedules so there is not as much competition for each team, but with all teams competing campus culture is expected to be a bit different this semester.

(Question #1 answered by Venita Mitchell, Vice President and Dean of Student Life, and Jason Vittone, Director Intercollegiate Athletics.)

Question 2 – Can you update us on COVID testing?

- We are not requiring COVID testing prior to the return to campus from winter break.
- We have encouraged students to take the two-weeks prior to returning to campus to limit their exposure to others and quarantine in place, to monitor for any COVID-like symptoms, and to get testing where they are at if they do develop any symptoms.
- Other higher education institutions whom we are aware of have conducted some surveillance testing and the results have only limited about a one-percent positivity rate. That is pretty low for the amount that it could cost an institution to do some of that testing.
- We do have antigen COVID testing here in Health Services for this semester - a limited number provided by Federal Government and COVID funding. We do not expect to receive any more tests than what we currently have on site.
- The test on hand is done by nasal swab. It is not the one that goes all the way back to the back of the throat. It is just about an inch or so in both of your nasal openings. We do get the results in about fifteen minutes from these tests.
- These tests do have a medium-to-high risk of false negative results meaning that these are best-used for patients who have symptoms. They are not best-used if you do not develop or have any signs or symptoms of COVID.
- CDC is still encouraging the use of the PCR test – which are considered the ‘gold standard’ for COVID testing.
- With having the antigen test here and knowing that it has a possibility of a false negative result, if the patient comes to the WWU clinic with known exposure to COVID and showing signs and symptoms, and if the rapid test here in the clinic is negative, a discussion with that patient will occur on whether or not a PCR test is needed.
- If PCR test determination is made, an order for that is provided and then that test can be done in a different area, whether it be Jefferson City, Columbia – or here in Fulton there are a few options also.
- Typically, PCR test results take one to two days to get it back. While we are waiting on those results, students would be required to not attend classes and employees not to attend work if they have symptoms while we are waiting on those results to come back.
- A side note here, if anyone is wanting to get a free PCR test done, there is a free community testing done next week in Columbia and Jefferson City. This information is listed on the William Woods COVID page under ‘Mid-Missouri Testing Locations’ [<https://www.williamwoods.edu/emergency-info/covid-info/testing-locations.html>].

(Question #2 answered by Kristen Oesch, WWU Nurse Practitioner.)

Question 3 – Can you provide information regarding COVID Vaccines?

- There are a lot of unknowns regarding vaccines right now. Our Health Services team has and will continue to be in close contact with the State and local Health Departments regarding vaccines.
- Missouri is currently on the 1A phase, which is health care workers.
- The Governor of Missouri plans to announce the 1B phase next week which will include more of the essential workers.
- If there is a place that you can get the vaccination, go get it. Basically, do not wait for William Woods or the local community to announce their plan.
- Larger communities are going ahead and getting that vaccine and distributing it to the public quicker than some of the smaller communities.
- We are working on it as best we can, but more likely than not we will not provide the vaccine here at William Woods but be able to provide you the information regarding access to where the vaccine is available.

(Question #3 answered by Kristen Oesch, WWU Nurse Practitioner.)

Question 4 – Are there any changes to what we are doing in the classroom?

- We are not really going to have any significant changes in what we are doing in the classrooms for this semester.
- We will still be using the COVID capacities as far as the classroom limits that we set. Those were in place from last semester and they seem to work fairly well and so we will keep those for all the rooms this semester.
- As a side note, we also are going to do all of our initial planning for next year following those capacity guidelines as well. It is much easier for us to allow more people in a room than it is to break it down the other direction. So, we will start on the conservative side with that as we plan for next year (2022).
- All the cleaning protocols used last semester will still be in place, leaving the furniture where it sets when you move into the room, wearing your mask, keeping your distance in class, all those things.

- Our faculty did a really fantastic job last semester with all of these things, and we are going to keep it going for another semester.
- Additionally, the University worked to install ionizers in all the air handlers in the classrooms as an air cleaning technology to reduce flu and COVID as well as try and help with safety and care of our community and our students.

(Question #4 answered by Aimee Sapp, Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs, and Scott T. Gallagher, University Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.)

Question 5 – Updates on holding meetings with students in-person or virtually; and provide a reminder about what we have been doing and will continue to do in regards to meetings, office set-ups, etc.

- This response applies not only to Academics but campus-wide. COVID management policies and procedures will stay the same as they were in the fall.
- Virtual meetings are certainly always encouraged but in-person are allowed if you can follow the proper safety guidelines.
- Keep in mind that you need to be able to maintain at least six-feet of distance from the person you are meeting with at all times.
- Some offices allow for that kind of spacing and some offices are now set up really well to be able to do that.
- Other offices just don't allow for it due to the layout of the room, or the room size and the furniture.
- In the latter case, if you have a need to meet with a student or a colleague in person, you can utilize conference rooms or empty classrooms and seek out spaces like that to help provide appropriate distancing if you need an in-person meeting.

(Question #5 answered by Aimee Sapp, Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs.)

Question 6 – Ongoing practices such as providing release notes for students from quarantine/isolation; sharing of knowledge assisting Health Services; continued contact tracing on campus; 14-day quarantine; and response protocol for students.

How do we know when students are either quarantined or isolated, or think they are sick, or such?

- That information comes to us in a variety of ways. We have a central phone number that is a dedicated COVID-line and is manned 24-7.
- If it is in the evening that a student finds out – maybe they get a call from home and they've just been home for the weekend and somebody at their home tested positive and it is seven o'clock at night. After they receive the call, they are like, oh my gosh, what do I do? We provide immediate response.
- It is yeoman's work to manage this around the clock and we have four people that are the leads on that line and work with Health Services. It is either Lacey Sweeten-Randall, Darianne Maclin, Mike Wills, or Amy Dittmer.
- We'll get the information and typically we then immediately call the student. It is usually the lead person and then either Kristen Oesch, WWU Nurse Practitioner, or Mike McElhinney, Head Athletic Trainer, if it's an athlete.
- We get on the phone with that student and we are immediately figuring out what is your situation. Did you get a call from the Health Department? Did you get a call from home? Are you sick? Do you need to be tested? Do we need to quarantine you/isolate you?
- We work through the scenario with the student and they are immediately given the information they need that evening.
- If they are going to quarantine, they stay there until the next day when they have a health appointment with Kristen Oesch.
- They might go into isolation, because perhaps they are positive or assumed positive.
- Once we know what they are, we get information to them. Some are allowed to pick up their meals, if they are just in quarantine. They pick them up at a side place. Others in isolation, their meals are delivered. We give that information to Athletics and now we have some other Student Lifers and faculty that have volunteered to help with weekend delivery of meals. So, the student gets information on how they order their food and how they get their meals.

Contract Tracing ...

- If a student is positive, or in isolation, we are still contact tracing. Some of you live in communities where the Health Department is no longer contact tracing. If a resident in that community was positive, the Health Department would call them and tell the positive to call their close contacts so that they should quarantine.
- We are still contact tracing for campus. We have trained contact tracers in Lacey [Sweeten-Randall] and Mike McElhinney, and then more backup through our Athletic Trainers where we will get on the phone with the students as fast as we can. It

doesn't take us two days like Health Departments. Usually it is within an hour or an hour-and-a-half of when a student is positive, or knows they are positive, we are contact tracing and also several of us jump on and divide up the names. What you find with this age group is that while most adults probably have four to five close contacts – college students have anywhere from 10 to 15 depending on what they are doing. A group of us get on and figure out who needs to be in quarantine and we get them the information and explain that.

Email Notifications ...

- Students do get emails that indicate they are in quarantine and that they need to stay there.
- There are times where this past semester, we quarantined larger groups for a short period of time so we might tell a group at night – and it could be a fraternity, it could be team, it could be a floor – and we could just say, you know what, this is messy and it's late at night, everybody is quarantined. We send an email to everybody in that hall and say you guys are quarantined until we can sort this out in the morning.
- Then as quick as we can, we will go through and start calling and figure out who had the close contacts and who should actually be quarantined.
- When we do that the students won't have a notice to send you, or they could have one that just says I live in this hall and I'm quarantining. We try not to quarantine large groups very often, but sometimes we do that and sort out the specifics a bit later.

Quarantine / Face Coverings / Isolation ...

- Quarantine here at William Woods will remain at the 14-days. We are going to continue to monitor that and see how the process is working here in the spring semester and will reevaluate this policy continuously.
- The face-covering policy remains in place and is also continuously being reevaluated.
- Isolation, meaning positives, will also remain at 10-days.
- Students will be asked to let Health Services know if they have any COVID concerns. Health Services will also be doing the release virtual visit for the students and faculty and staff, also, if that is needed.
- Health Services will give the students a return to normal activity note when the quarantine and isolation has ended. That way professors are aware of that time also from the email.
- As mentioned previously, we will continue to have our own contact tracers on campus.

Sharing of Information with Health Services ...

- If a professor or a staff member has had a conversation with a student who is saying I may have, may not, not quite sure, if I have COVID or not, or if these symptoms are COVID or not, meaning loss of taste or smell, fever, cold-like symptoms – strongly encourage that student to contact Health Services and to go ahead and self-quarantine themselves at that time until Health Services has been in contact with them.
- Tell the student that you yourself will also be getting in contact with Health Services to make sure that we are aware that the student has some COVID concerns.
- This doesn't come up very often, but should be reiterated for clarity, to faculty and staff in particular, that notifying health services that – this is an infectious disease, it's a recordable infectious disease, and you will not be breaking any HIPPA rules by notifying Health Services because that student has already told you their information.
- Once Health Services is informed, as WWU Nurse Practitioner, I will reach out to that student, and make sure either (1) if I haven't heard from them that they are okay and (2) get accurate information and to make sure we don't need to do any testing or further follow-up care for that particular case.

Ongoing Practices ...

- It definitely is a team effort to keep our doors open and our campus safe and it's going to take every one of us. Regarding students, also, all of us, too, we will still encourage monitoring of the health status daily before coming to work or campus. This includes taking your temperature. Any temperature of 100.4 or above is considered a fever and you are asked to stay home. Notify your supervisor and HR if you are faculty or staff. Students are to notify Health Services.
- If you wake up feeling ill, please call Health Services even if it's at eight o'clock in the morning from your car in Health Services parking lot. I would prefer you to come over to my office (Health Services) before you go to your office if there are any concerns that you might have COVID because I can do that test in my office and evaluate you;
- I have full PPE gear where so far, it's keeping me safe and we can at least get as much of an answer as is this COVID or is it not.
- The free antigen COVID test that I have here in Health Services, those have an expiration date, and so we need to use those to the benefit of the campus community.
- We have also waived the \$20 co-pay fee for seeing Health Services for any visit related to COVID this semester.

Care Corp ...

- Some of you are Care Corp people that are helping us out – faculty and staff that have followed up when we have students in quarantine and isolation. A lot of times the students don't need anything, but it is really helpful that we have somebody following up after we have put students in their quarantine – 14-days is a long time. So even if they don't need you to do anything for them, like pick up something at Wal-Mart, or a prescription, just them knowing that somebody else is reaching out is good.
- If you would like to be a Care Corp volunteer, contact Debbie Schick [debbie.schick@williamwoods.edu or office 573-592-4239]. Meal delivery is not a part of Care Corp duties. Care Corp people are just following up with individual students.

(Question #6 segments answered by Venita Mitchell, Vice President and Dean of Student Life, and Kristen Oesch, WWU Nurse Practitioner.)

Questions 7 – Will Alumni Weekend 2021 be held?

- Yes, there will be alumni events this spring. The Equestrian Alumni Reunion is scheduled for February 19–21 and it will be virtual. The regular or all alumni reunion is scheduled for April 16–18 and Jeneva Pace and the Alumni Board Events Committee are continuing to evaluate that event and will make a final determination closer to the event time whether this will be virtual or in-person.

(Question #7 answered by Kathy Groves, Vice President of Advancement.)

Question 8 – What are Activity Days for students and when are they scheduled?

- The Activity Days that some of you might have been hearing about are actually what we have done in the past as our Student Performance Review Days. The Student Performance Reviews are really an essential part of our traditional assessment program. We usually do those two days back-to-back in the spring semester where our normal classes are not held but instead we do assessment activities with our students. This year we are changing that up a bit just to help out with some of the COVID fatigue that our students are experiencing.
- The traditional student experience on campuses across the country is really pretty monotonous right now due to COVID and we hear students comment on this quite a bit. So, what we are doing to help with this is spreading those days out. We are going to do one in February and one in March. The dates are February 24 and March 30.
- We will have to do our normal assessment activities but we are going to try to get all of the essential activities for assessment completed in the morning. We will do student performance review activities in the morning and then we will try to plan some kind of monotony buster activities in the afternoon and evening.
- Along with this, if any of you have ideas for that or such things, Venita Mitchell and Aimee Sapp are open to hearing them and would love all of you to participate in that if you have thoughts or you work with clubs or organizations that might have ideas.
- Obviously, the February date will be a little challenging because the weather will make it hard for us to be outside, but we are going to try to come up with some really fun things for the students to do so they can kind of relax and feel a little bit more like normal college students for those two days.
- If you have thoughts or ideas, please reach out to Aimee or Venita, and we will be happy to hear those ideas. And, if you want to help out with activities those days, we would really appreciate that as well.

(Question #8 answered by Aimee Sapp, Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs.)

Question 9 – Faculty and staff access to Tucker and the Owls Nest?

- Yes. Faculty and staff will be able to access Tucker and Owls Nest right away. Last semester you might recall that first week or two we asked faculty and staff to not go over there. The text order, if you did not use it, you should. It was awesome and it made it where you could text in your order and it would tell you when it was ready and you could just pick it up. So, faculty and staff can go over there at any time.
- We do say – it's going to be crowded at noon, typically. So, going right at noon is not a good idea. We really need to allow most of the seating for students. If you wait until 12:15pm or 12:20pm, then some of you like to go over there and sit and eat. It is limited seating at the tables. We need to make sure we are not pulling over additional chairs. It is about three to a table, unless it's a smaller table and then it is one or two [chairs].

- But, yes, faculty and staff can use Tucker and Owl Nest. Just be respectful of how much money the students are paying for their meal plan and give them access first.

(Question #9 answered by Venita Mitchell, Vice President and Dean of Student Life.)

Question 10 – Campus Events / Camps Management / Visitors Policy

- The **Visitors Policy** has not changed. It is exactly what it was before. Outside visitors need to fill out a form before they come to campus or when they arrive on campus, and make sure that they answer all the questions on the form. This provides us with a record and the information that they don't have a fever, they don't feel ill, all those types of things to help keep campus and The Woods community safe.
- **Campus Events** – there's a process for campus events. That process is you have to come up with a plan, devise it as to how to keep people safe, determine what works best in the space, how we can limit exposure, and work out all details ahead of time. The plan is then submitted to their Cabinet supervisor for review and approval. Then, if necessary, the plan comes to the COVID Reopening of School Committee and the Committee will weigh in on it, too. We had a lot of events last semester that were well done and well thought out, so that practice is not going to change for this semester.
- **Camps** – Camps are under review – continuously under review. In fact, we've heard this week that Student Council is not going to be having their sessions. They are not going to have their camp in-person at all. We will continue to review the camps policy over the next couple of weeks, especially once students return to campus. Our number one priority is getting everybody back, get them back safely, and get our students settled. After which, we will look at the camps and continue to assess the feasibility of having them on campus while keeping the safety of the campus community at the forefront of the decision.
- For **internal camps**, there is a process for those which is the same as our campus events policy. There has to be a fully developed plan submitted and then approved. Outside camps are a different deal which we will continue to evaluate. With the expected ongoing COVID conditions, it is highly suspect that they will be diminished or not happen at all but we are going to continue to look at that as a committee; and the camps, we will continue to review that as well.

(Question #10 segments answered by Scott T. Gallagher, University Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.)

Question 11 – Mask Policy

- The mask policy will continue as it was before winter break. We review this policy weekly but for the present nothing has changed about that policy. Just be aware that the Committee is constantly reviewing it, but our number one priority here is keeping everybody in the community safe. And, I must add that you 'all' have done an amazing job of making that happen.

(Question #11 answered by Scott T. Gallagher, University Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.)