COVID-19 Virus Transmission Levels

Community Levels
Hampden County continues to be rated by the CDC as having substantial levels of transmission. (Source: CDC Data Tracker). Positivity rates for the county are currently at 4.05% (Source: MA DPH County Level Positivity Rate).

What does this mean for the WNE Golden Bear Community; stay vigilant, stay safe- wear your mask indoors, get vaccinated (if not already), and remember to wash your hands!

Campus Transmission
WNE COVID-19 Testing and Case Rates will begin to be reported the week of August 30, 2021.

Vaccination Updates
Hampden County Vaccination Rates
Vaccination rates in Hampden County are up by 7% as of August 10, 2021. 57% of the county has received at least one (1) dose of the vaccine. Source: MA.gov Weekly Vaccination Report

Vaccine Compliance (WNE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denominator</th>
<th>Fully and Partially Vaccinated</th>
<th>Exempted</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4,171</td>
<td>3,072 (73%)</td>
<td>284 (7%)</td>
<td>814 (20%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Data inclusive of submissions thru 8.16.2021 at 4:30 PM

Updated Vaccine Information
CDC (CDC Booster Shots) recommends that people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after the second dose of Pfizer-Biotech COVID-19 vaccine or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. CDC (does not recommend additional doses or booster shots for any other population at this time).

CDC is recommending that moderately to severely immunocompromised people receive an additional dose. This includes people who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last two years or are taking medication to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response
People should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them.

**Vaccine Clinic at WNE**
Mark your calendars- WNE will be offering a Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic on **Thursday, September 16, 2021, from 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.** Registration information will be provided with next week’s weekly update.

Note: we are confirming with MA DPH if we are permitted to provide booster shots to those faculty, staff, and students who meet the CDC’s criteria. More to come!

**Policy Updates**

**Commuter Students**
All early arrival exempted/unvaccinated commuter (or residential students) are reminded to submit a negative PCR to Health Services or be tested by Health Services before being on campus. The test must be conducted within 72 hours of being on campus, no earlier. Group leaders are notified of noncompliance and will not allow students to participate in events or activities until Health Services provides a clearance.

All **general exempted/unvaccinated commuter students** must submit their negative PCR to Health Services by August 23, 2021.

**Athletics Safety Standards**
The University’s Anthony S. Caprio Alumni Healthful Living Center is a facility that supports recreational sporting activity, wellness-related activity, and competitive sports activity.

All students, faculty, staff, and guests, including prospective students, visiting teams’ and independent consultants, are expected to follow all COVID-19 safety standards implemented at WNE when using the facility. This includes:

- Following the WNE Mask Policy when in effect.
  - [https://www1.wne.edu/coronavirus/mask-policy.cfm](https://www1.wne.edu/coronavirus/mask-policy.cfm)
- Practicing good hand hygiene
- Practicing good cough etiquette
- Clean equipment after use
- Avoid close contacts when feasible
- Refrain from using the facility when ill or experiencing signs and symptoms of COVID-19

**Competitive Sports**
Western New England University is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III. The University supports 20 NCAA-sponsored varsity sports and will follow the COVID-19 guidelines outlined by the NCAA, published August 4, 2021. Exception being where the guidelines published by the Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC) are more stringent, local guidelines will prevail. **FINAL CCC guidelines are pending, and we'll those with you as soon as we have them**


We are confident that we will have another safe and successful year, which will include a rewarding and fun set of experiences inside and outside the classroom.
If you have questions or concerns about this weekly update, contact Health Services at Healthservices@wne.edu or 413-782-1211.

Respectfully,

Basil A. Stewart
Vice President for Finance and Administration
Chair, Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT)

Kathleen M. Noone
Director, Health and Wellness

COVID-19 Weekly Update
August 16, 2021