WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE
Thursday October 14, 2021

Policy Updates

Community Engagement Activities
Several questions have come to EMRT that pertain to community outreach related activities. EMRT believes these activities are inherent to the organization’s mission and endorses resuming these activities with proper safety guidelines in place. Guidelines are as follows:

1. Off-site Community Outreach activity (examples are: volunteer work, internships, and coaching programs delivered in conjunction with other organizations) will be conducted consistent with all WNE COVID-19 safety standards and policies.
   a. Current policies reflect community risk levels and include risk mitigation strategies that are effective during high transmission periods.
   b. Policies and standards may change as community transmission levels change.
2. Should COVID-19 evolve and community transmission data indicate a significant safety risk is present, EMRT will reevaluate the endorsement and support of the off-site community activity.

COVID-19 Virus Transmission Levels

State-Wide Transmission Levels
Cases across the state continue to decline, with the latest 7-day average indicating case counts of < 1,000.

![Figure 1 Source: MA DPH, Data current through October 8, 2021](image1)

Community Levels
Transmission rates across Hampden County continue to decline, although the county is still reported as **HIGH**. Data published by [CDC Data Tracker](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) indicates another drop in positivity rates for the county for the third week in a row. Hampden county is currently reported to have a positivity rate of 3.52%!
**WNE Campus Levels**
Positive cases reported by WNE remain low, and there are no reported issues with isolation or quarantine housing. Link: [WNE COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

**COVID-19 Booster Clinics at WNE**

Thank you to all who have completed the short WNE COVID-19 Booster Planning Survey! **Preliminary results indicate that over 72% of the campus is interested in obtaining a booster shot when available.** If you haven't completed the survey, please do so by October 15, 2021.

**Survey Link:** [WNE COVID-19 Booster Planning Survey](#)

Health Services continues to work with the MA DPH Vaccine Unit and community stakeholders to offer booster clinics at the WNE campus. **Our target date for the first clinic is Friday, October 29, 2021.** Complete guidelines for the Booster Clinics will be published later this week in a separate email.

Meanwhile, **Health Services will be providing the first FLU clinic** of the semester this **Friday, October 15, 2021.** No registration is needed; walk-ins are welcomed!!

**Location:** Health Services will have staff available and **centrally located in the Campus Center**

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

A full schedule of all FLU clinics for the remainder of the semester will be sent out via campus email later this week.

If you have questions or concerns about this weekly update, contact Health Services at [Healthservices@wne.edu](mailto: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, Center for Health & Wellness