COVID-19 Booster Clinics at WNE
Available data right now show that all three of the COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized in the United States continue to be highly effective in reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating Delta variant. Vaccination remains the best way to protect yourself, reduce the spread of the virus, and help prevent new variants from emerging.

Faculty, staff, and students at WNE are encouraged to discuss the benefits of receiving a booster shot with their primary care provider. Vaccine boosters are not required by WNE but are being offered as an added layer of protection to those faculty, staff, and students who may benefit from the immunity that comes from receiving a booster shot.

Booster Policy
On October 21, 2021, the CDC announced in their press release (CDC October 21, 2021 Press Release) that mixing and matching the primary and secondary vaccine series is safe and acceptable. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to discuss the clinical benefits of mixing and matching vaccination series with their primary care provider.

All booster clinics offered at WNE will be for faculty, staff, or students who choose to remain in their primary series of vaccination. Clinical staff will not administer vaccines outside of the primary series on record.

The staff of the Center for Health and Wellness will offer support to any faculty, staff, or student who needs assistance in finding a vaccine clinic that offers booster shots outside their primary series.

Booster Clinic Information
COVID-19 booster clinics will be offered at WNE on Fridays beginning November 5, 2021, with exceptions noted for the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks.

Details pertaining to scheduling, pre-registration and eligibility are outlined in the WNE 2021 Booster Clinic Guidelines, which can be found on the COVID-19 website and is attached here for your review and access.
COVID-19 Virus Transmission Levels

State-Wide Transmission Levels
Cases across the state continue to decline, with the latest 7-day average of COVID-19 confirmed cases for the state trending below one thousand, and the positivity rate for the state is currently reported at 1.57%. Data source: Massachusetts COVID-19 Interactive Dashboard. Data reported is as of October 24, 2021.

Community Levels
Transmission rates across Hampden County continue to decline, although the county is still reported as HIGH.

Data published by CDC Data Tracker indicates another drop in positivity rate for the county.

Hampden county is currently reported to have a positivity rate of 2.86%, and vaccines have increased to 66%.

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.

Hampden County, Massachusetts
State Health Department

7-day Metrics | 7-day Percent Change

Community Transmission | High
Everyone in Hampden County, Massachusetts should wear a mask in public, indoor settings. Mask requirements might vary from place to place. Make sure you follow local laws, rules, regulations or guidance.

How is community transmission calculated?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7-day Metrics</th>
<th>October 28, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases</td>
<td>666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Rate per 100k</td>
<td>142.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Positivity</td>
<td>2.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated</td>
<td>66.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hospital Admissions</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1 Current 7-days is Wed Oct 20 2021 - Tue Oct 26 2021 for case rate and Thu Oct 14 2021 - Wed Oct 20 2021 for percent positivity.
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, Center for Health & Wellness