COVID-19 Booster Clinics at WNE

Our First COVID-19 (Pfizer) booster clinic was conducted on November 5. We are pleased to share that over 23 community members boosted their immunity to COVID-19!!

The second Pfizer booster clinic of the semester is scheduled for this Friday, November 12, 2021. **Limited appointments are still available! Please call Health Services at (413) 782-1211 if you would like to be added to this week’s clinic.**

Clinics will continue to run every Friday for the rest of the semester with an alternating vaccine being offered each week. Please see the [Booster Clinic Guidelines](#) for vaccine schedules, eligibility guidelines, and registration information.

COVID-19 Virus Transmission Levels

*Statewide Transmission Levels*

A review of statewide data indicates that Massachusetts is seeing a slight uptick in cases, in addition to a bump in statewide positivity (Figure 1). However, hospitalizations and mortality rates continue to drop. [Massachusetts Interactive COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

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**Figure 1 Statewide data as of November 8, 2021**
Community Levels

CDC Data Tracker reports that transmission rates across Hampden County remain **HIGH**.

The positivity rate for Hampden County is currently **3.4%**, and vaccines have increased to 67.5%.

WNE Campus Levels

Positive cases reported by WNE remain low although slightly higher this week. We're keeping a close eye on these trends. There are no reported issues with isolation or quarantine housing. **WNE COVID-19 Dashboard** will be updated tomorrow morning.

Flu Season 2021-2022

CDC monitors flu cases across the United States and is predicting that this flu season may be more severe. Updates from the CDC are noted below:

- Laboratory-confirmed **flu activity** is low at this time.
- **The first and most important step in preventing flu** is to get a flu vaccine each year.
- The flu vaccine has been shown to reduce flu-related illnesses and the risk of serious flu complications that can result in hospitalization or even death.
- CDC also recommends everyday preventive actions (staying away from people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and frequent handwashing) to help slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like the flu.
- **Complications of flu** can include bacterial pneumonia, ear infections; sinus infections; and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes.
- The **composition of flu vaccines** has been updated.
  - All flu vaccines will be quadrivalent (four components), meaning that it is **designed to protect against four different flu viruses**.
- Flu vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines and boosters can be given at the **same time**.

**FLU SHOTS AT WNE**

Flu shots are available by appointment in Health and Wellness. In addition, walk-ins are welcome on Monday or Thursday evenings from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Beginning next week our mobile Flu Clinic will be in the **University Commons**.

Next week’s mobile clinic will be on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
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)

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