EMRT Statement on COVID-19 Boosters

WNE will require booster shots for Golden Bear Community Members for the Spring 2022 semester.

The Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT) of WNE has reviewed the science on the current COVID-19 vaccines. Studies show that after getting vaccinated against COVID-19, protection against the virus and the ability to prevent infection with variants decrease over time.

Data from clinical trials showed that a booster shot increased the immune response in trial participants who finished a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna primary series six months earlier or who received a J&J/Janssen single-dose vaccine two months earlier. With an increased immune response, people should have improved protection against getting infected with COVID-19, including the Delta variant. For Pfizer-BioNTech and J&J/Janssen, clinical trials showed that a booster shot helped prevent COVID-19 with symptoms.

Further details on this requirement will be forthcoming in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, if you have received a booster shot, please submit an updated COVID-19 vaccine card to covidvac@wne.edu.

Important Policy Updates

International and Exchange Students Policy Update

In alignment with the Presidential Proclamation and CDC guidance (link: Presidential Proclamation and CDC Information), WNE policy is that all international and exchange students registered for the Spring 2022 semester must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination to Health Services. Proof of immunization must be to covidvac@wne.edu.

All forms of proof of COVID-19 vaccination must have:

- Personal identifiers (full name plus at least one other identifier such as date of birth or passport number) that match the personal identifiers on the passenger’s passport or other travel documents
- Name of official source issuing the record (e.g., public health agency, government agency, or other authorized vaccine providers)
- Vaccine manufacturer and date(s) of vaccination

Spring 2022 COVID-19 Testing Program

All WNE residence students must have re-entry testing before moving back into campus housing.
regardless of vaccination status.

Re-entry tests must be SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests and be obtained within the range of dates noted below.

Re-entry tests may be obtained from Health Services, or they may be obtained from an off-site facility. If the PCR is obtained from an off-site facility, results must be uploaded to covidvac@wne.edu for tracking purposes by the due dates indicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Move-in Date</th>
<th>PCR Timing Parameters</th>
<th>Due date of Results to Health Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Arriving Student-Athletes</td>
<td>The Athletic Department and Health Services will be partnering to determine sport-specific timeframes. Please reach out to your coach for details.</td>
<td>1/14/2022-1/16/2022</td>
<td>January 16, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Advisors</td>
<td>January 18, 2022</td>
<td>1/15/2022-1/17/2022</td>
<td>January 17, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Advisors</td>
<td>January 19, 2022</td>
<td>1/16/2022-1/18/2022</td>
<td>January 18, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New WNE Students</td>
<td>January 20, 2022</td>
<td>1/18/2022-1/20/2022</td>
<td>January 20, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New to Housing Students</td>
<td>January 22, 2022</td>
<td>1/19/2022-1/21/2022</td>
<td>January 21, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other residents</td>
<td>January 23, 2022</td>
<td>1/19/2022-1/21/2022</td>
<td>January 21, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exempted Faculty, Staff and Students Spring 2022 Requirements**

All exempted faculty, staff, or students will be required to renew their exemption for the Spring 2022 Semester. All exempted campus community members will receive an email from Health Services outlining the renewal process and testing requirements for the Spring 2022 Semester.

**Spring 2022 Testing Schedule**

Health Services will be open for walk-in re-entry testing on:
- January 14, 2022, 8:30-4:30 p.m.
- January 15, 2022, 8:30-1:00 p.m.**
- January 17 thru January 20, 2022 8:30-4:30 p.m.

No appointment is necessary, and there is no cost to faculty, staff, or students.

The Weekly Surveillance Testing program for the Spring 2022 semester will commence on Monday, January 24, 2022, and will be available in Health Services on the following days:
- Monday 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
  - Wednesday 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.** note new extended hours

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                                      Kathleen M. Noone
Vice President for Finance and Administration
Director, Center for Health & Wellness
Chair, Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT)