Hello Golden Bears! We are in the home stretch of the semester—it’s hard to believe, but KUDOS for your vigilance and focus. Your hard work made this a successful semester for us all. As a campus, we have made tremendous strides in moving our COVID mitigation strategies forward and applying all the lessons we have learned these last few years.

Community Transmission levels in Hampden County have risen to YELLOW, indicating that cases are on the rise and there is some impact to healthcare resources.

There are no changes to WNE policies at this time.

Please assess your level of risk and make the best decision for yourself regarding masking or barrier protection.

**WNE Policy Updates**

**Guest Registration Policy**
Our Guest Registration policy has been updated to include the WNE Mask Ready Policy, in addition to being more user friendly and streamlined for data collection and contact tracking purposes. Please familiarize yourself with its contents.

Link: Guest Registration Policy -Revised

**Vendor Safety Policy**
Our Vendor Safety policy has been updated to include the WNE Mask Ready Policy, as well as additional streamlined content. Please familiarize yourself with its contents.

Link: COVID-19 Contractor and Vendor Safety Protocol

**UPDATED: Student Athletes Spring Semester Testing Policy**
Based on conference policy changes, community transmission levels, and WNE case counts, the following policies will be effective on Monday, May 3, 2022

1. **All SPRING** student athletes in competition season that are unvaccinated and not boosted **must test once a week** for the remainder of the semester. Vaccinated student athletes will no longer be required to test.

2. **All FALL** sports student athletes in training that are unvaccinated and not boosted **must also be tested once a week**.
   a. Testing will be on Mondays in Health Services from 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
3. Appointments are not needed, and there is no out-of-pocket cost to faculty, staff, or students.

WNE Summer Updates
The following mitigation strategies and communication strategies will be suspended for the summer effective Monday, May 23, 2022:

- Public Reporting of Testing Outcomes/Dashboard
- Weekly Surveillance Testing
- Weekly EMRT Newsletter Updates
- Weekly Booster Clinics

CDC Updates
COVID-19 Boosters
We've received a lot of questions about the new booster guidelines published by the CDC. The following information was published on April 28, 2022 by the CDC to provide additional clarity: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html

Getting a Second COVID-19 Vaccine Booster
People in certain groups or situations can get a second COVID-19 booster. If you’re in one of those groups or situations, it’s up to you whether to get a second booster right now, based on the benefits and risks the vaccine may provide to you. Your healthcare provider can help you review your options. Here are facts you need to think about as you consider a second booster.

1. Are you eligible?
   Right now, you're eligible for a second COVID-19 booster if you:
   - Are 50 years of age or older and got your first booster at least 4 months ago
   - Are moderately or severely immunocompromised, 12 years of age or older, and got your first booster at least 4 months ago
   - Got 2 doses of J&J/Janssen vaccine at least 4 months ago

2. Are you (or is someone you live with) more likely to get very sick?
   Certain factors can make it more likely someone will get very sick from COVID-19. If you are eligible for a second booster (see above), it may be helpful to get that dose now if you are (or if someone you live with is):
   - Moderately or severely immunocompromised
   - More likely to get very sick from COVID-19
   - More likely to be exposed to COVID-19 through your job, where you live, or other factors (such as frequent travel or large gatherings)
   - In an area with medium to high COVID-19 community levels
• If someone you live with is unvaccinated

Can you wait?
Even if you are eligible for a second booster, you may consider waiting to get a second booster if you:

• Had COVID-19 within the past 3 months
• Feel that getting a second booster now would make you not want to get another booster in the future (a second booster may be more important in fall 2022, or if a new vaccine for a future COVID-19 variant becomes available)

Upcoming Booster Clinics at WNE
Are you up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines? **Friday is Booster Day at WNE!** Upcoming booster clinics are:

- May 6, 2022: Moderna
- May 13, 2022: Pfizer or Janssen

All clinics are from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and scheduling is easy! Use the link below to self-schedule your appointment.


Respectfully,

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

**Kathleen M. Noone**
Director, Center for Health & Wellness