

November 19, 2021

Vanguard Community,

I want to thank you for your continued vigilance with our social distancing and indoor masking protocols. Your cooperation and compliance have allowed us to preserve in-person learning and to return to more indoor group events such as our recent theatrical production and last night's Symphonic Band concert.

As you likely heard on the news, yesterday, Arkansas experienced the largest one-day increase in new COVID-19 cases in six weeks. This is a trend in many areas of the nation. ASU-Beebe currently has our highest number of positive cases since September 28, 2021, as well.

I am as anxious as anyone to forego these masks and to stop measuring how far I am from a friend or colleague. Unfortunately, right now we have to continue our diligence. Safeguarding our ability to be safely on campus and in classes remains my #1 goal.

I am asking each of you to help us safeguard the Vanguard Community and continue to be diligent about the actions we know prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- **Watch for Symptoms:** Take responsibility for monitoring your own health. If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19, DO NOT come to campus and self-report your condition via our COVID-19 Self-Reporting Form located on the [ASUB Coronavirus Information](#) webpage.
- **Watch Your Distance:** Stay at least 3 feet from others, even when masked, but practice the recommended six feet of social distance whenever possible.
- **Mask Up When Indoors:** And when you can't keep six feet of distance between yourselves and others, mask up outdoors as well.
- **Wash Your Hands:** Practice good hygiene by washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, regularly using a 70% alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and cleaning and disinfecting commonly used objects and touched surfaces often.

Finally, I continue to encourage members of the Vanguard Community to seek vaccination against COVID-19 if possible. If you are vaccinated, I encourage you to talk to your healthcare provider about when you should receive a booster. I highly encourage you to discuss all vaccination questions and concerns with your personal healthcare provider. I concur with the Arkansas Department of Health message that tells us to, "Get off Google and talk to your doctor."

I am pleased to share that vaccination rates among the Vanguard Community are encouraging. The following vaccination rate data was provided to us by the Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Department of Higher Education based on fall census day enrollment and a submitted file of current part-time and full-time employees. Please know that all data provided

was aggregated. No individual vaccination information was provided to higher education institutions on any particular employee or student.

	<b>Percent At Least One Dose</b>	<b>Percent Fully Immunized</b>
<b>ASUB Students</b>	43.38%	38.15%
<b>ASUB Employees</b>	71.43%	65.83%

As we head into the Thanksgiving holiday and break, please enjoy your time away but continue to utilize the practices to #VanGUARDYourHealth and #ProtectOthers. Let's return healthy and ready to finish the semester strong!

Sincerely,



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