

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

After tracking and managing COVID-19 cases on a daily basis since March, 2020, we hit a new milestone today. It feels like getting a surprise Valentine Card to know that we did not have one faculty or staff member become infected with COVID-19 this past week. We did have 12 students test positive; 10 cases from the Downers Grove Campus and 2 from our Glendale Campus. It is very good to see these continuing downward trends over the past month in our campus populations.

I am very pleased to share that on Monday, February 15, 2021, Northwestern University will open its first COVID-19 Vaccination Center to our registered patients, as well as to our faculty, staff and students. While both campuses have the logistics ready to implement, there is a shortage of vaccine in Illinois; therefore, the first Vaccination Center to open will be on the Glendale Campus. This past week, several members of our community were intensely focused on the planning, coordination and execution of the operational logistics needed to bring our Vaccination Center to fruition. It was a remarkable feat of teamwork by many individuals who came together to make our Vaccination Center a reality.

Vaccination Center Staffing

- Initially we opened an online volunteer registration system, but quickly realized that this was not as effective as having the Colleges/Programs staff the various shifts on a shared and rotating basis.
- If you previously volunteered online for a shift, please look for an announcement from your College/Program with information on how you can sign up for available volunteer shifts; all volunteers will be scheduled during one of the College's designated available time slots.
- Staff members in non-academic departments can submit their request to help through their supervisors, who will then contact the proper college administration responsible for filling the schedule on a particular day.
- Volunteer staffing positions include Greeters, Runner, trained and experienced Vaccinators, and Observers. Only students, faculty and staff with experience in Allscripts Electronic Records can assist as a scribe for the medical records.

Hours of Operation

- On Monday, February 15, 2021 the Vaccination Center will be open from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM, and be reserved for only faculty, staff and students. Beginning Tuesday, February 16, 2021, and thereafter, the hours will expand to 8:30 AM until 3:00 PM.
- The Vaccination Center will be open Monday through Friday in the Therapy Institute.

Appointments

- In accordance with the County Guidelines, the Vaccination Center will be open to our registered patients over age 75. They will receive an invitation via email to register. Names will be drawn on a random basis. Our intent is to vaccinate a minimum of 80 individuals each day.
- Faculty, Staff and Students will receive a request and appointment email to sign up for the vaccine. You can check your email by going to outlook.office.com to see if you've received one of these "Request an appointment" links over the weekend. Names of those who are selected will also be drawn on a random basis, throughout the week, focusing on those in State Eligibility Categories 1A and 1B.

- Should any vaccine dose not be utilized at the end of each day, all attempts will be made to provide a vaccine to a Vaccination Center volunteer.
- We will only be vaccinating with the Moderna vaccine. If you already had the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine, your second dose must also be the Pfizer vaccine; you will not be eligible to receive the Moderna vaccine at our Vaccination Clinic.

5 Point Plan for Diversity and Inclusion

Our sincere thanks to our two Student Services Diversity Coordinators, Ms. Catherine Rent and Ms. Julie High Horse for their continued planning and programming of special events for our students, faculty and staff. This week they have shared new activities and information regarding Black History Month. In working in coordination with our campus chefs, they will be honoring the widely renowned and esteemed Chef Edna Lewis and her legacy found in three seminal cookbooks. You can read about her legacy at <https://www.ednalewisfoundation.org/meet-ms-lewis>. Special meals have been introduced each week of February to honor this special month.

Our Human Resource Diversity Coordinators, Ms. Jenise Davis and Ms. Angie Alvarez have provided us an excellent HR Newsletter highlighting the importance of honoring Black History Month. If you missed this month's newsletter, you can find it at <https://www.pageturnpro.com/MidwesternUniversity/98602-February-2021-HR-Highlights/flex.html#page/1>

Our College of Health Sciences on the Glendale Campus has implemented a number of significant programs to expand their programs' diversity and inclusion activities. The Physical Therapy faculty and staff Diversity in Education created a Diversity Week Campaign beginning on March 15, 2021. Each day they will highlight a different aspect of diversity as it relates to health care issues. The Occupational Therapy faculty created an elective course entitled, "Occupational Justice" and the impact of diversity on occupations. The Nurse Anesthesia faculty created testimonial videos showcasing the diverse Nurse Anesthesia students as part of their recruitment efforts. Each of these new programs will continue to advance our mission to increase our diversity awareness and inclusion.

I hope all of you have a pleasant weekend. May it be filled with happy moments, great memories, and friends and family. Happy Valentine's Day.

Be well.

Dr. G.