

Thursday, April 22, 2021

SUBJECT LINE: Outside mask policy update, Bison Vaccine Clinic April 28, Fall semester update

To: All University Students, All Employees



Lipscomb Family:

As we near the end of the spring semester, we are thankful for each and every member of the Lipscomb family who continues daily to do their part to protect the health and wellness of the Bison Herd. Because of YOU we are now able to have in-person graduations and other events on campus. Overall, our community has remained healthy and well for which we are thankful and grateful.

As we close out this academic year, we have some good news to share with you! We have been waiting a long time for the relief that the items in this email bring. **We are hopeful that these updates are just the beginning of the positive changes we will welcome over the coming months and into the fall semester!**

1. Outside mask policy update (finally!!)
2. Bison Vaccine Clinic on April 28 (finally!!)
3. Fall 2021 Semester Update

Outside Mask Policy Update

Recently, the Metro Public Health Department [amended the mask policy](#) issued in Order 8. The amended mask mandate does **not** require facial coverings or masks to be worn while outdoors in public spaces (go ahead and take a minute to clap and elbow bump with your friends!). The order still urges people to maintain social distancing at all times especially when around those outside your immediate family. ***The indoor mask mandate is still in effect when interacting with others in indoor public places.*** Masks and face coverings are still required in K-12 schools when social distancing is not happening, as well as on buses to and from school.

As a result of this amendment, Lipscomb has updated the mask requirements on campus to comply with the amended Metro Public Health Department mask policy. You can review the full mask policy [here](#). In summary,

- Face coverings must be worn by all individuals at all times while on Lipscomb's campus. Exceptions to this requirement are only as follows:
 - **Face coverings are not required when outside.** Physical distancing is encouraged in these instances, especially when not with individuals from one's immediate family.
 - Face coverings may be removed while actively eating and drinking.
 - Face coverings may be removed when alone indoors. This includes private offices, dorm rooms or suites. When engaged in vigorous exercise while indoors and a face covering is removed, physical distancing of at least 6 feet must be maintained at all times.
 - Face coverings are not required for children ages five and under.

Bison Vaccine Clinic

Lipscomb University Health Center will host the **Bison Vaccine Clinic on Wednesday, April 28 where they will administer the first-dose of the Moderna vaccine.** The clinic will take place in Allen Arena beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing while vaccine supplies last. At this time, the FREE COVID-19 vaccine is available **only** to current Lipscomb Academy and Lipscomb University faculty and staff and university students ages 18 and over. No appointment is necessary.

Three hundred doses of the vaccine will be available at this clinic on a first-come, first-served basis. *Because the Moderna vaccine is administered in two doses at least 28 days apart, those who receive the first dose MUST complete the second dose to finish the series of vaccinations.* **You may complete the series of vaccinations at an on-campus clinic in May OR at any other vaccine provider throughout the country that administers the Moderna vaccine.** Simply take the vaccine card that you will receive at the Lipscomb clinic with you when you go for your second dose and show the healthcare provider. Additional COVID-19 vaccine clinics may be held in the future if there is sufficient demand and more doses are made available to Lipscomb.

Remember to complete [this consent and screening form](#) prior to getting your COVID-19 vaccination to keep the process safe and expedient for everyone!

With the COVID-19 pandemic still in full force, we strongly encourage everyone to get the vaccination to help reduce the spread of the virus. For more information about the Moderna vaccine, please review the information at the end of this email.

Fall 2021 Semester Update

It is our plan for the return to a fully in-person learning, living and working campus experience for the fall 2021 semester. Our current plans for the fall semester include

- teaching in classrooms at capacity,

- additional residential housing capacity,
- open dining halls and eating venues,
- fully staffed campus student services,
- expanded slate of student events, activities and programming, and
- more fans attending athletic and campus events.

We will continue to monitor federal, state and local health guidelines as we make plans to return to a full in-person experience in the fall. We are currently in the process of determining the return to campus protocols for fall. We are consulting with our medical experts as well as looking to guidance from higher education entities and local health department experts. We plan to issue the return to campus protocols as soon as possible so students and families can be informed and make any plans needed, such as those needed to comply with the January 2021 return to campus protocols. Fall classes begin on Monday, August 23. For the fall 2021 academic calendar, click [here](#). Any changes in these plans will be communicated at least 30-days in advance unless changes in governmental regulations or CDC recommendations require more immediate action.

Our priority from the beginning of this pandemic has been to provide a safe learning and living experience for our students and employees. That goal will not change as we prepare for our return this fall in a much more robust way. Our plans and protocols will remain flexible throughout the summer planning process to be able to be responsive to guidance from health experts as we near the start of school and continue to work in partnership with officials from the Metropolitan Public Health Department of Nashville and Davidson County to implement and follow the best protocols and practices to protect the health and safety of everyone in our community.

We hope you finish the semester strong and have an enjoyable summer!

The Incident Management Team

Kim Chaudoin, Kevin Eidson, Susan Galbreath, Kathy Hargis, Carol Lusk, Matt Paden

About the Vaccine

The Moderna vaccine is an [mRNA vaccine](#). Read more about the Moderna vaccine [here](#). Click [here](#) to read CDC information about COVID-19 vaccines.

Benefits of Getting the COVID-19 Vaccination

While more COVID-19 vaccines are being developed as quickly as possible, routine processes and procedures remain in place to [ensure the safety](#) of any vaccine that is authorized or approved for use. Safety is a top priority, and there are many reasons to get vaccinated.

- COVID-19 vaccination will help keep you from having a severe adverse event from the COVID-19 virus
- COVID-19 vaccination is a safer way to help build protection

- COVID-19 vaccination will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic
- Read more about the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccination [here](#).

Other Vaccine Locations

For those who are not able to participate in the Bison Vaccine Clinic, we encourage students, faculty and staff who have not yet been vaccinated to find a COVID-19 vaccine site in their hometown or state. For Nashville residents, [click here](#) for vaccine site information. Tennessee residents [click here](#) to find a vaccine location nearest you.

COVID-19 Vaccine Resources

[CDC General COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination Myths and Facts](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Tennessee Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)

Have questions? Email healthservices@lipscomb.edu.