

# Monday Message

Feb. 14, 2022



## President's Message

Dear all,

We have been appropriately guided by science and safety throughout the pandemic. I am proud of what we have accomplished and how we have navigated these crazy times together. As I mentioned in last week's message, a number of things are very different now than they were a year ago:

- a. Vaccines and boosters are safe, highly preventative in terms of severe illness associated with COVID-19, widely available – including at our own on-campus clinics – and free.
- b. N95 and KN95 masks are available and free (we have confirmed N95 mask availability at Rite Aid on 19th Ave.), and LC State has received authorization to become a mask distribution center for the campus community via the Idaho Office of Emergency Management. This means we now have KN95 masks available on campus. (See distribution information below and this [CDC article](#) regarding the protection effectiveness of these masks).
- c. PCR (Vault) tests continue to be available on campus, and free rapid tests can be ordered via [COVIDtests.gov](#); as well as through insurance reimbursement for individuals who purchase them (We have verified that Costco has rapid tests in stock and our own campus supply is on order and will be arriving soon).

As the above illustrates, the tools we need for individuals to keep themselves, their loved ones, and each other safe are readily available. So, drumroll... mindful of our strong campus vaccination rates, and having reviewed infection rate data regarding Lewiston City wastewater analysis and trends, conferred with Public Health, and sought insights from St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, we believe we can **test drive** a mask optional/recommended protocol **beginning Friday, Feb. 18**. Here's what that means:

1. Wearing face coverings continues to be allowable and is recommended, especially for individuals who are not vaccinated and boosted, per the [2-out-of-3 guidance](#).
2. Mask-optional means that employees may require masks be worn in their classes and/or offices at their discretion. We are a campus community and, as such, caring for our community members must remain our priority. The rationale for the Feb. 18 start is to allow time to communicate discretionary expectations via the Monday Message, the Student News email, class announcements and canvas course shell postings, etc.
3. We will monitor infection rate data, and should rates spike in response to this **test drive** and/or another virus variant surge, we will reinstitute the face covering requirement.
4. As always multi-data point monitoring will be ongoing with updates communicated weekly via the Monday Message.

Happy Valentine's Day to all.

Cynthia Pemberton, Ed.D.  
President

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## Events

- **Feb. 15 – Tuesday at Two** – Due to President Pemberton’s travel schedule there will not be a Tuesday at Two on Feb. 15.
- **Feb. 15 – LC Leadership Spotlight** – “Leading through Common Sense” with Mark Alexander will be Feb. 15 from 12-1 p.m. in the Williams Conference Center or [online](#). Alexander has held positions as CEO, property developer, and philanthropist. Hear about his education, experiences, and what he has learned about leadership through his journey.
- **March 24 – Ask & Answer** – Ask & Answer is Thursday, March 24, in the SUB from noon-1 p.m. This is a live, in-person opportunity to visit with President Pemberton, ask questions and share information. President Pemberton will treat the first 10 students in attendance to a free lunch that day.

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## Announcements

- **Coronavirus Updates & Risk Level:** For the latest coronavirus updates and information visit [www.lcsc.edu/coronavirus](http://www.lcsc.edu/coronavirus). In accordance with its [Operational Levels Matrix](#), LC State’s current risk level is: Moderate.
  - **Cases Update:** Currently there are **3** active cases and **0** students in isolation in campus housing.
  - **Vaccine Availability:** To schedule an appointment with Public Health - Idaho North Central District visit [www.idahoprepmod.com](http://www.idahoprepmod.com) or call 208-799-3100.
  - **KN95 Masks:** LC State has become a distribution center for KN95 masks. The masks are available to faculty, staff, students and the general public at these [campus locations](#).
  - **Reporting Line:** The college will maintain the COVID-19 reporting line for students, and employees should continue to contact Human Resource Services if they are positive for COVID-19 or a close contact. The college’s Coronavirus Dashboard will continue to be updated at least through the end of the spring 2022 semester.
  - **Contact Tracing:** We will continue to monitor active infections on campus, but will no longer be engaging in the elaborate campus wide contact tracing conducted up to this point. We will, however, continue to do this in our residence halls and athletics. I and we owe a debt of gratitude and thanks to the following individuals for their tireless contact tracing efforts:
    - Adam Ashford
    - Julie Christianson
    - Tracy Collins
    - Amanda Greco
    - Lindsey Hight
    - Makenzie Hollingsworth
    - Debbie Kolstad

- Nicole Meyer
- Rocky Owens
- Jeannette Seward
- Megan Spence
- Vikki Swift-Raymond
- Abby Woolery

A special thanks is also due to Ms. Danel Arnzen for her work in conducting contract tracing as well as for developing and modifying the digital forms used to support this important part of our COVID-19 response.

- **Classroom Requirements:** Faculty who are planning to require face coverings in their classes will need to post an announcement of their intentions in their Canvas course shell and make classroom announcements this week.
- **Update from HR:** You asked, and we listened! We have updated the Request to Hire and Affirmative Action documents into one convenient form. We believe it will be a quick, efficient, and consistent process for those who complete the form and those who review and approve it. Please review the link to the newly updated [Open Position and Affirmative Action Packet](#). We will begin piloting this new form immediately and would appreciate any feedback you have emailed to [hr@lcsc.edu](mailto:hr@lcsc.edu). Please begin using this form in place of the Request to Hire and Affirmative Action Forms for all classified, professional, and faculty searches. Thank you! The updates are as follows:
  - We combined the Request to Hire with the Affirmative Action Packet to eliminate duplication and redundancy within the forms
  - We “hard-coded” language for the required application documents to eliminate confusion
  - We updated the closing date requirement(s) for faculty and classified positions
- **Feedback about Classrooms:** The Information Technology and Physical Plant departments would like your feedback on the technology and physical space of instructional classrooms. Please [fill out this quick survey](#) if you utilize instructional classrooms.
- **Kayak Pool Sessions:** On these Tuesday evenings – Feb. 22, and March 8 and 22 – there will be kayak sessions at the Aquatic Center in Clarkston at 7-8:30 p.m. for students, faculty and staff. This is a chance for kayakers to practice skills in the safety of a pool. Both first timers or seasoned pros welcome. [Register online](#) to reserve your spot, or contact [outdooradventures@lcsc.edu](mailto:outdooradventures@lcsc.edu) or call 208-792-2670.
- **Introduction to Fly Tying:** On Feb. 25 at 2-3:30 p.m., join Outdoor Adventures and North 40 Fly Shop to learn about fly tying tools, materials, and a touch of entomology (the study of insects). No experience necessary. This is a free class that is open to students, staff and faculty, and community members. Seats are limited, [sign up](#) now to guarantee your spot. For questions contact [outdooradventures@lcsc.edu](mailto:outdooradventures@lcsc.edu) or 208-792-2670.
- **Seeding Our Tomorrows 1:** The Business & Computer Science Division is actively promoting its programs and recruiting new students. On Feb. 15, the division will spread the word in north Idaho by hosting a chamber luncheon in Post Falls. That same day, Dr. Luther Maddy, interim dean of the School of Professional Studies, will attend a transfer fair and meet with administrators at Treasure Valley Community College. On Feb. 16, Maddy will speak to a Business 101 class about transfer opportunities and also visit with division chairs at the College of Western Idaho.
- **Seeding Our Tomorrows 2:** LC State’s [website](#) plays an important role in recruiting new students and retaining (serving) current ones. With this in mind, the Information Technology and Communications & Marketing offices partnered to develop a path forward for how the college will manage its website and maintain its quality web presence. The four-year plan, which was

approved by administrators in January, begins with the formation of the Strategic Web Advisory Group, which will have representation from across campus, and with the hiring of a Web Coordinator (currently being advertised) to begin July 1. Members of the advisory group will play a key role in the position search process, and also in researching and preparing for a key future decision point – whether the college transitions to an internal or more outsourced approach to web management. More details will be communicated in future Monday Messages.

- **Campus Song for the Week:** "[A Change is Gonna Come](#)" by Seal.

