

# Monday Message

Sept. 13, 2021



## President's Message

Dear all,

This message shares corrections and updates. Please read on...

1. Our employee vaccination rate, while relatively good, was reported a bit high earlier this month because exemptions were inadvertently included in the calculation. As of this morning, among benefited employees, our vaccination rate is hovering around 64%. *This does not include exemptions of any kind – not even those who were recently infected and, thus, likely have at least temporary immunity. Our goal is to top 80% by the first of October.* (If you are vaccinated, please do bring your vaccination card to HR so that we have an accurate employee percentage). I cannot be more clear. As long as there are hosts for the virus to infect (unvaccinated individuals are ideal hosts) not only will our collective health suffer and our health care systems strain beyond capacities, but mutations will keep occurring and our pandemic lives and the protocols we are all sick of will persist. Read on below for information on our on-campus vaccine clinics. Also, please be aware that while many institutions across the country are requiring vaccination, like other state agencies in Idaho, LC State cannot.
2. Regarding “opting out” of weekly testing, please note the modified language below pertaining to religious exemption requests. Those who have requested exemptions should have or will shortly receive a follow-up call and/or email instructing next steps in terms of survey completion and ultimate outcomes. Also, please be aware that YES, you can participate in weekly testing even if vaccinated. We are happy to be able to provide this important health and safety option to all! *Campus employees may pick up Vault test kits at Human Resource Services or several other campus locations ([www.lcsc.edu/coronavirus/surveillance-testing](http://www.lcsc.edu/coronavirus/surveillance-testing)).*

The exemption request survey language reads as follows: “...opting out of surveillance testing can be affirmed based on sincerely held religious beliefs; and while not required, you are welcome to share support documentation akin to what is typically associated with vaccination requirement exemption considerations. These include such things as written religious materials describing your religious belief or practice, and/or written statements or other documents from third parties, such as religious leaders, practitioners, or others with whom you have discussed your beliefs or who have observed your expression or practice of your sincerely held beliefs.”

3. How might the recent White House (WH) directives impact us? We are communicating with and across state agencies to understand exactly what this means for us. That said, with weekly testing in place our strategy seems to align with the WH directives. As our understanding of these directives evolves, the Monday Message will include updates.
4. Sept. 17: As was announced at the start of the semester, our first review date for mandatory masking in internal LC State spaces is Sept. 17. That date is approaching. A decision will be made and communicated on Friday, Sept. 17, via email and reiterated in the following Monday Message. The decision will be based on vaccination rates, infection rates and our [operations matrix](#) status, CDC recommendations, input from Public Health and our regional health care institutions. As a reminder, **if and when** we are able to move from masking mandatory to masking optional, *masking optional means that at the discretion of faculty/staff, masking can still be required in classrooms, offices, etc.*

In closing, I call your attention to a couple of bullet items below that will appear routinely in the Monday Message, *Seeding our Tomorrows* and the *Campus Song of the Week*. It is my hope that by featuring the many ways we are working to seed and nurture our tomorrows, we will be reminded of the important mission we serve and the vibrant future we can and will realize.

Take heart, Warriors, and Stay Strong.

Cynthia Pemberton, Ed.D.  
President

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## Events

- **Sept. 7-30 – Multicultural Awareness Month Events** – Visit [www.lcsc.edu/multicultural-awareness](http://www.lcsc.edu/multicultural-awareness).
  - **Sept. 14 – Tuesday at Two** – President Pemberton's Tuesdays at Two continue through Zoom (<https://lcsc.zoom.us/j/861031866>). All are welcome to join the conversation.
  - **Sept. 16 – Constitution Day** – The discussion topic for this year's event will be political office term limits. [Read the news release](#).
  - **Sept. 17 – Vaccination Clinic** – The CHAS portable vaccination clinic will be at the fountain area from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (no registration required).
  - **Sept. 21-25 – LC State Homecoming** – Details to come.
  - **Sept. 24 – RESPOND Training** – This professional development training will run from 9 a.m.-noon in Reid Hall, Room 202. [Learn more](#).
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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 **14** active cases and **two** students in isolation in campus housing.
  - **Reporting Line:** If someone believes they were exposed to someone with an active case of COVID-19 or believes they are infected themselves, they should contact the campus COVID-19 Reporting Line at 208-792-2002 for guidance.
  - **Vaccine Availability:** To schedule an appointment with Public Health - Idaho North Central District visit [www.idahoprepmo.com](http://www.idahoprepmo.com) or call 208-799-3100.
  - **Vaccination Challenge:** LC State is proud to partner with the White House and colleges and universities across Idaho and the country to support the [COVID-19 College Vaccination Challenge](#). The Challenge invites colleges/universities to make sure members of their campus communities know where to go to get a vaccine; and to lead and pave the way by helping to make vaccination options and opportunities readily available.
  - **Physical Plant Updates:**
    - Employees are not required to clean high-touch surfaces after each class or in common areas. Custodians are cleaning these surfaces nightly. Supplies are

available in classrooms and offices for anyone who chooses to wipe down surfaces.

- Offices will remain on a once-a-week cleaning schedule, so if trash needs to be taken out more often please place it outside your door for pick up (for liquid or strong odor items, please take directly to trash bins near your building).
  - All employees and students should bring their own face coverings to campus. The college is supplying a backup supply only. Backup face coverings can be found in [designated locations](#) in each building. If your building's supply runs low please contact Public Safety.
- **Clothing Needed for Career Fair:** LC State students are getting ready for the live Career Fair on Oct. 7. LC State's Professional's Clothing Closet helps students find what they need quickly so they can look and feel their best. Here's what's needed: men's and women's suits of all sizes, men's collared dress shirts, and shirts for women to wear under a jacket. Men's sports coats (interview jackets) and women's separates (interview jackets and pants) have also worked well for our students. Please donate interview ready attire only. All other attire will be donated to a local thrift store. Please drop your items off at the Student Employment & Career Center in the Student Union Building, Room 202, or call Makenzie Hollingsworth at x2550 to arrange on-campus pick up.
  - **Seeding Our Tomorrows:** "I recently attended the fall TAC Early Childhood program meeting during which the program's aggressive recruitment efforts were described. Here are some of the seeds being planted and nurtured. Well done, Early Childhood!" - President Pemberton
    - Employer recruit letters – 98 letters were sent out throughout the state of Idaho in July
    - Updated info/rack cards have been developed and distributed
    - High school recruitment collaboration with CTE has been expanded
    - Education practicum opportunities with our KinderCollege program are being explored
    - Ongoing news release information is being forwarded to campus communications and marketing personnel to shine a spot light on program highlights (e.g., the IdahoSTARS scholarships)
    - Social media posting is being systematically engaged
    - Early Childhood Zoom forums are being held
    - And ongoing curricular relevance review and updates, responsive to industry input, continue to take place
  - **Google Drive Update:** Today, Sept. 13, Google Drive will apply a security update to some shared files to make them more secure.
    - This update will change the links used for some files, and may lead to new access requests for the impacted files. Access to these files won't change for people who have already viewed them. [Read how to see your impacted files.](#)
    - After the update is applied, you can avoid new access requests by distributing the updated link. Follow instructions on how to create an updated link in the [Drive documentation](#).
  - **Weekly Student Email:** To be added to the list to receive a copy of the weekly student email, please [email Debbie Kolstad](#) with "student email" as the subject line.
  - **Campus Song for the Week:** "[Turn! Turn! Turn!](#)" by the Byrds.
  - **HR Updates:**
    - [Weekly Flyer](#) | [September Newsletter](#)
    - Benefit Highlight: [Care Management and Condition Support](#)
    - Save the Date: Employee Resource Fair (previously, Benefits Fair) Oct. 14
    - [SafeColleges Trainings](#) must be completed by Oct. 1. [Training Day Video](#).

