​​Dear Weber State Family,

Below are highlights from our town hall on Wednesday, January 12. The slides and full recording can be found on our [website](https://weber.edu/PresidentsOffice/video-appearances.html).

COVID

As we begin the spring semester, we are experiencing the effects of the Omnicron variant on campus and in our surrounding community. To see current case numbers, please review our [Tableau dashboard](https://tableau.weber.edu/t/weberpublic/views/WSUCOVIDTrackingPublic/COVIDonCampus?:showAppBanner=false&:display_count=n&:showVizHome=n&:origin=viz_share_link&:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&:embed=y). As a reminder, these numbers reflect individuals who have been on one of our campuses in the 14 days prior to testing positive. We have had additional individuals test positive for COVID; however, they were not on campus in the 14 days prior to testing positive.

Having individuals complete the [self-report form](https://weber.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0ClXArhqerACZAp) is the quickest way for us to conduct contact tracing on our campuses. If you are told that someone has tested positive, please direct them to complete the form as soon as possible. If you would like to ensure that students have completed the form, you can email covid19@weber.edu.

*Testing*

We have a few COVID testing options for students, faculty, and staff on our campuses.

* If individuals are symptomatic or identified as someone with high exposure, they can schedule an appointment by calling our [Student Health Center](https://www.weber.edu/healthcenter).
* Through January 14, individuals returning to campus can be tested at the Public Safety Building from 10am-2pm. No appointment is required.
* Each weekday, testing will be available for those with and without symptoms in the Shepherd Union Building, room 312 from 8am-12pm courtesy of Public Safety and Athletics. No appointment is required.

*Vaccinations*

Vaccinations are highly encouraged for employees but are not required at this time. This is pending the outcome of the Supreme Court ruling, which we anticipate soon. We continue to have [vaccination clinics](https://www.weber.edu/coronavirus/vaccines.html) available at the Weber State Community Education Center on Mondays and Wednesdays and at the Shepherd Union on Tuesdays. For additional dates and locations available in the community, please visit the Utah Coronavirus [website](https://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAuP-OBhDqARIsAD4XHpe69YPh1PrztJYkTQ6lzCoAgA7B223pc--jgC9SfwRYF8Og80bJZJcaAiI9EALw_wcB).

Students registering for the spring semester were required to provide proof of vaccination or submit an exemption. Of those completing the form, 12,461 students submitted proof of vaccination, 1476 filed a personal exemption, 511 submitted a religious exemption, 377 submitted a medical exemption, and 375 students reported that they will be completing their vaccination requirement.

*Face Coverings*

Face coverings can be encouraged on campus, but we are not permitted to require them at this time. We have provided disposable surgical masks in classrooms, and we still have a limited supply of KN95 masks available at the Public Safety Building for faculty and staff.

Enrollment

As of Monday, January 10, our spring enrollment is down 4.2%. While there will likely be some budget cuts due to enrollment being down in the fall and spring, the exact amount is yet to be determined. We conducted the voluntary separation program in the fall to preemptively prepare for anticipated budget cuts, so that will be taken into account as we begin fiscal planning for next year. One of the most effective things we can do to positively impact enrollment is to retain our students. Please make sure to check in with students and share information about student resources on campus.

The Utah legislative session is approaching quickly and will run from January 18 - March 4. Weber State Day at the Capitol will be on January 19. This year, we made requests to enhance compensation and to renovate our McKay Education building. Because of our past performance, we will earn our full performance funding allocation.  Our next town hall meeting will be on March 4 to share the anticipated legislative session outcomes.

Please know that I appreciate each of you and all that you are doing for your students and your colleagues. Thank you.

Wishing us all health, happiness, and fortitude.

Best,

brad