

Weekly COVID Update



Bennington College - Laura Walker <president@bennington.edu>

Wed, Sep 29, 2021

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Dear Bennington Community,

It was wonderful to see so many people at Fall Weekend. The weather was glorious and I enjoyed meeting so many parents!

We have good news: there are no student cases, and no new faculty or staff cases, just the three staff cases we've previously announced.

Mandatory weekly testing for all on-campus community members starts this week. Thank you to everyone who has scheduled and been tested. More details below for those who need to schedule a test.

We will host a [community wide webinar](#) with two experts from Vermont and our own health team on Friday at noon and we encourage staff, faculty, students and parents to attend. See below for details.

Thank you also for prioritizing the health and safety of our community, especially while there were more people on campus this past weekend. Thank you for all your work keeping the community safe.

Sincerely,

Laura Walker

From the COVID Task Force:

COVID Webinar

- At noon on Friday we will [host a webinar](#) with Dr. Patsy Kelso, State Epidemiologist for the Vermont Department of Health; Dr. Trey Dobson, Chief Medical Officer for Southwestern Vermont Medical Center; Dr. Randy Anselmo; and Ali Tartaglia, DrPH.
- This will be an opportunity for all members of the community—students, families, staff and faculty—to hear from experts and to ask any questions you have about COVID, testing, vaccination, and more.
- Feel free to [submit any questions](#) you have ahead of time.

Travel guidance

- We recommend that you adhere to the [CDC guidance](#) on travel recommendations domestically and internationally, but travel is not restricted.

Flu vaccine

- While it's always a good idea to get the flu vaccine—for your own wellbeing and to reduce the spread to other, more vulnerable members of the community—it is especially important this year. Preventing the spread of the flu prevents additional strain on an already-overburdened health care system. Also, given the overlap between symptoms of COVID and the flu, stopping the spread of the flu minimizes the disruptions associated with developing symptoms that might be COVID.
- Dr. Randy has ordered flu vaccines for students; more information to come when that is scheduled.

- Staff and faculty are strongly encouraged to get their flu vaccine as well, through their doctor, a local pharmacy, or other places.

Testing for the on-campus community

- **All faculty, staff and students who have a presence on campus, regardless of vaccination status must be tested every week.**
- Testing is taking place at Newman Court in VAPA, Mondays through Thursdays, 8:00 am-12:00 pm and 1:00-3:00 pm. You can schedule a test on any of those days.
- Please schedule your test through the CoVerified app to prevent crowding and waiting in line. (On the app: click "Testing" on the bottom right, then click the "+" next to the calendar icon on the top right corner to schedule.)