

August 27, 2021

Dear Faculty and Staff:

Welcome back to fall 2021 on the Hilltop! This week, the fall semester began in earnest. After months of planning and preparation, we have returned to in-person activities across campus. Thanks to each of you for the ways you advance our educational mission in support of our students.

These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged

healthy fall semester. If you have suggestions for what we should include in future communications, please send your ideas to this [email address](#). Previous newsletters are available [here](#).

ee categories: 1) Fall 2021, 2) Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

**Fall 2021:**

**Week one recap**

- **Opening Convocation and Rotunda Passage** On Sunday, August 22, SMU welcomed our new first-year and transfer students to campus during our 107th Opening Convocation and

- **Enrollment** The first day of class preliminary headcount for the University totaled 12,327 including 6,923 undergraduates and 5,404 graduate students, both degree and non-degree. SMU welcomed 1,580 new first-year and 281 new transfer students to the Hilltop at Opening Convocation last Sunday. New students include a record share of students who identify as traditionally underrepresented, 33.3% of the first-years and 44.5% of transfers. Official enrollment numbers change daily until the census capture date of September 8, 2021. You can view past [here](#). We are off to a strong start!

**SMU’s position on vaccination following full FDA approval this week of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine** See [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)

encourage rather than require COVID-19 vaccinations on campus this fall. This decision was made in close consultation with local, state and federal health recommendations and guidance, and informed by

[going-forward position](#)

vaccine receiving federal approval. As an additional consideration, SMU recruit

It is important to meet those expectation as much as possible by not changing requirements once they arrive unless necessary to maintain the health of the campus.

**Vaccination available through the Dr. Bob Smith Health Center**

To receive vaccinations, appointments are required and can be booked through the [health portal](#) or by calling 214-768-2141.

- Third Doses for the immunocompromised: Starting last week and moving forward, third vaccination doses are available for moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals ([as defined by CDC and FDA guidelines](#)) who are fully vaccinated with either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. Note: For immunocompromised individuals, this third booster can be taken as soon as 28 days after receiving your second shot.
- Booster doses for non-immunocompromised Starting later in September, it is expected that all community members who are fully vaccinated with either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines can begin signing up to receive their booster. Note: The recommended timeline for receiving a third dose is 8 months following receipt of the second dose.

**Voluntarily Report Your Vaccine to SMU** We have transitioned to a new way of voluntarily reporting your COVID-19 vaccination status through the Dr. Bob Smith Health Center.

- If you were vaccinated on campus, your information will automatically be uploaded into your health record under *immunizations* (no action is necessary).
- However, if you were vaccinated off campus, please upload that information directly to the [SMU Health Portal](#), even if you

already voluntarily shared your status through the vaccine reporting tool last spring.

**SMU CAN's updated "Pledge to Protect" -**

thank SMU CAN for their work updating the pledge to reflect our



SMU policies clear and transparent, which will be a critical step in helping us reach our research and creative impact goals for R1 and our BUF goals around greater transparency and equity.

