Virtual Town Hall for Mount Employees

JANUARY 12, 2021
Attack on the U.S. Capitol

- Outrageous actions of a mob incited by the President resulted in death and destruction in our nation’s capital
- The President and those who illegally entered the Capitol building and / or otherwise caused destruction need to be held accountable
- Hatred on display in the mob was so disheartening. Symbols of white supremacy and anti-Semitism evident throughout
- Our democratic republic is stronger than this and will stand this test
- As a country and as individuals, we should reflect upon how we got to where we are today
The title of our prayer service is: FINDING HOPE TOGETHER; SEEING THE WORLD WITH LOVE AND JUSTICE

Msgr. Andrew Baker, S.T.D. Rector, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary
Rev. Martin Moran, University Chaplain
Rev. James Donohue, C.R., Ph.D.
Moving Forward

- We will follow up with facilitated sessions over the next few weeks for employees and students to process what they have experienced and are feeling from this time of national turmoil and how we can move forward with love and justice.

- Archbishop Lori Calls for a Day of Prayer January 15 for Our Nation and Its Leaders:
  - In keeping with the Catholic tradition of observing Friday as a day of penitence, he encouraged Catholics throughout the Archdiocese to pray, skip a meal, or reconcile with a person who has offended them.
  - He also encouraged the faithful to pray for the members of the Maryland General Assembly, who begin their legislative session tomorrow.
  - Archbishop Lori asked all Catholics to offer the Prayer for Civil Authorities on the evening prior to the presidential inauguration, which was composed in 1791 by our nation’s first Catholic Archbishop, Archbishop John Carroll of Baltimore.

- The Archbishop echoed Theodore Roosevelt, who “famously said, the presidency is ‘a bully pulpit.’ That pulpit must never be used, directly or indirectly, to inflame blind passion. It should be used to unite our nation, in all its diversity, around its highest ideals.”
Security Update

Overview

• Widespread reporting of possible armed protests being organized in all state capital cities and in Washington DC, starting as early as this week and lasting through the Inauguration on 20 January.

• The Maryland State Police has received information that 17 Jan will be the date of protests at the State House in Annapolis. They are increasing security.

• The State Capitol Police in Harrisburg has increased their security posture but gave no date for known protests.

• A protest and march are planned at Baker Park in Frederick on Wednesday January 13 at 6:30 p.m. The Frederick Police Department and the Frederick County Sheriff’s Office are anticipating a small crowd will form and march through the streets, possibly towards the Law Enforcement Center.

• Local law enforcement officials have received no information or intelligence indicating there is a known threat to Mount St. Mary’s University.
Security Update

Recommendations

• Avoid travel to any state capital city (especially Capitol Buildings) and Washington DC for the next 14 days. Avoiding travel also reduces the COVID risk.
• Remain vigilant and aware of your surroundings at the university, while commuting, and at home.
• Consider removing any overt socio-political signs, bumper stickers, etc. to avoid conflict or becoming a target for the next 14 days.
• Local Law Enforcement and Public Safety will enhance the uniformed presence throughout the campus. The community should prepare for an increased presence of law enforcement officers.
• DPS and Physical Plant will evaluate the need for university checkpoints and possible closures of entry points leading up to the Inauguration – TBD.
• Immediately report any suspicious activity and/or the presence of unknown individuals on university property to DPS at 301-447-5357. “If You See something, Say Something”.
  o DPS will send info on what suspicious activity looks like and how to report it.
Key Successes during COVID

- Students living on campus and attending classes in Hyflex environment (in-person and synchronous remote instruction)
- Significant enrollment gains:
  - Largest freshman class ever
  - 12% increase in undergrad enrollment in one year
  - 38% increase in Seminary enrollment over 5 years
- Keeping athletic practices going
- No layoffs or furloughs due to COVID
- Largest ever Giving Day donations in April 2020
Our Guiding Principles in Planning

- First and foremost is the **health and safety** of our community. Decisions will be informed by guidance from federal and state public health authorities. We will also use analytics to drive decision making.
- We will emphasize **student success** as we fulfill our Mount mission.
- We will be **flexible in responding** to the uncertainty caused by this pandemic.
- We will treat our students and employees with respect **emphasizing empathy and compassion** as we know this pandemic has seriously impacted some in our community more than others. We are committed to helping our community members in keeping with the traditions of Catholic social justice.
- We will **steward our financial resources** to ensure the university’s strength and stability for the long term. Our decisions must consider the future as well as the present so we are positioned to enjoy another 212 years.
We are in Health Alert Level 1 – Low

The current Health Alert Level is: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total COVID-19 Tests Performed in 2021</th>
<th>187</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frederick County Positivity Rate</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSMU % Active Cases in Mount Community*</td>
<td>0.54%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryland Positivity Rate</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
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*During the winter break (Nov. 23 - Jan15), the Mount Community consists of employees and a small number of on-campus student athletes.

The number of confirmed cases that are currently in isolation either on-campus or off-campus. The number of active cases changes as new cases are added and existing cases are released from isolation.

% MARYLANDERS VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19

% MARYLANDERS

This chart shows the percentage of Maryland residents who have received the 1st dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The state's target percentage is 80%.

Updated: 12 January 2021

0: No health alert
1: Low Level - low numbers of cases that are able to be contained
2: Heightened Level - elevated numbers of cases in multiple areas, additional restrictions required
3: Advanced Level - higher number of cases; more aggressive actions are necessary

% Isolation Beds In Use

The Mount has about 56 isolation beds to use for on-campus isolation of confirmed and likely cases and quarantine of some close contacts. This graph shows how much of the capacity is being used.

This chart shows how Maryland residents have received the 1st dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The state's target percentage is 80%.
Summary of COVID Cases from August - December

- 125 total Cases in our population including all students and employees, including those engaged only remotely
- 3.9% of our population

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<tr>
<th>Baseline and Surveillance Tests Performed in 2020</th>
<th># Positives</th>
<th>Positivity Rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>5,324</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
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Observations:
- Transmission primarily in social settings and off-campus
- No known cases of transmission in classrooms
- Transmission from surfaces not evident

Fall Metrics at High Point
Week of 9/14/20:
- 24 Active Cases (16 on campus)
- 34 Isolation beds in use - some for quarantine (64% of capacity (56 beds))
Keys to Continued Success Going Forward

- We have a good Mount Safe Plan and are improving upon it
  - Updated COVID Monitoring & Response Plan
  - Mount Safe teams reviewed practices and are implementing improvements

- Continual testing in multiple modes is key to early detection and containment of any outbreaks of the virus
  - Test wastewater again to ID asymptomatic cases
  - 100% baseline testing again
  - Doubling weekly surveillance testing
  - Procured some antigen tests

- Isolation and Quarantine to Contain the Virus
  - Adding Some spaces just in case needed

- Having our own contact tracing operation enables us to accelerate containment strategies.

- Close collaboration with local partners is important for success.
  - Town, County, Frederick Health

- Completing Daily Health Survey

- Most importantly: Follow Risk Reduction Measures!
  - Wear the Damn Mask!
Return to Campus Plan

We are phasing in the return of employees, students and seminarians over time.

Here is a summary of the return details in time order:

- Basketball teams returned to campus on Dec 27. They undergo COVID testing three times / week.
- 100% testing of students and seminarians upon arrival; quarantine until cleared.
- Employee testing this week and next.
- Some students and seminarians returned on Jan 10. Testing results: 1 positive of 73 tests = 1.37% positivity rate.
- Seminarians return Jan 14, will be tested on Jan 15 and quarantined until cleared. Retreat on campus planned for the week of Jan 18.
- About 140 students return on Jan 17. All will be tested and quarantined until cleared.
- Residential students return Jan 23-27, will be tested and quarantined until cleared.
- Classes due to start on Jan 28 using the same format as fall semester.
- We will be continuously evaluating our plans as the public health situation develops over the next two weeks.
Employee Testing on January 13, 14, 20 & 21

- Frederick Health will conduct testing.
- Testing is strongly encouraged, but not required, for all employees. Aramark and BNN employees are eligible.
- There are available time slots on the 4 testing days, from 8am to 12pm.
- Testing will be conducted in the East Gallery of the ARCC.
- Note: There will be additional testing options for Frederick campus employees, details to follow shortly.
- Appointments are required. Sign up at the link provided in the email from Human Resources.
- All Mount Safe protocols are required to be followed. Employees who are symptomatic may not participate in on campus testing.

Please contact humanresources@msmary.edu with any questions. Thank you for your continued commitment of protecting the health of the Mount community.

236 signed up so far – please get tested!
Facility Initiatives for Virus Protection and Mitigation enhanced

- Classroom protocols worked; need to continue to use them.
- Bipolar Ionization and other ventilation improvements in buildings.
- Reapplying the long-term disinfectant, Envirosheild Endure (SD90+) in buildings, which will eliminate virus particles on a treated surface within 10 minutes. It is a mechanical, not chemical process so it is safe for people to reoccupy a treated area after 1 hour.
- Customer service shields, occupancy and directional signs to support physical distancing being refreshed.
- PPE being restocked where needed. Contact Physical Plant for any additional needs.
- New multipurpose building behind Delaplaine Fine Arts Center will be open for additional dining seating with Emmit’s Street Eats Food Trailer adjacent to it.
Vaccine News

Maryland Plan for prioritizing those to receive the vaccine

Latest information:

- Hospitals getting about 60% of doses
- County health depts have about 13%
- Federal govt. contracted Walgreens and CVS to give vaccinations
- Frederick County Health Dept. is running one clinic now
- All healthcare providers who are licensed, registered, and certified in Maryland who live or work in Frederick County can be vaccinated now in Phase 1A. 5 of our athletic trainers...
- Lobbying State and County govt. to move our employees up into phases 1B and 1C
- Have offered to host a clinic site on campus for the county
Why Get the Vaccine

COVID-19 Vaccines Are Safe

- All vaccines approved for widespread use are required to undergo extensive safety testing before they are licensed by the Food and Drug Administration or recommended for widespread use.
- Both the Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna vaccines being used have been studied in multiple clinical trials, each of which has included thousands of individuals who were followed for a minimum of two months. Decades of experience with other vaccines indicate that most adverse reactions occur within the first two months of vaccination.
- While these vaccines were developed quickly, all safety testing phases were completed, and the vaccines were shown to be highly effective in preventing serious illness.
- The most common side effects are a sore arm, fatigue, headache and a low-grade fever that lasts for 24 to 48 hours. This side effects are a sign that the body is building immunity.
- People who have had severe allergic reactions to other vaccines or injectable therapies should not get vaccinated against COVID-19.
Why to Get the Vaccine

The Catholic Church’s View on Available Vaccines

- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a statement on December 14 that although the vaccines have some connection to cell lines connected to aborted fetuses, their use is morally justifiable in consideration of present circumstances. The circumstances include: no vaccine that has absolutely no connection to abortion, the serious risk to public health and, most importantly, the need to protect the most vulnerable from the disease.
- The Bishops’ statement says: “The lack of available alternative vaccines, and the fact that the connection between an abortion that occurred decades ago and receiving a vaccine produced today is remote, inoculation with the new COVID-19 vaccines in these circumstances can be morally justified.”
- The Vatican issued a statement on December 21 that “it is morally acceptable to receive COVID-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses” in the research and production process when “ethically irreproachable” vaccines aren’t available to the public. The statement stressed that the “licit” uses of such vaccines “does not and should not in any way imply that there is a moral endorsement of the use of cell lines proceeding from aborted fetuses.”
Why We Should Get Vaccinated

- Vaccination helps to protect us and those around us from COVID-19.
- Clinical trials show the vaccines are highly effective in preventing serious illness.
- Vaccines are the path forward to ending the pandemic.
- Most of the participants in clinical trials and early recipients of the vaccine have had minimal side effects.

Will Things Return to "Normal" Once People on Campus Are Vaccinated?

- Masking up, physical distancing, avoiding large gatherings and handwashing will still be necessary to help slow or stop the spread of COVID-19.
- The vaccines appear to be highly effective at preventing disease, but it is unknown whether they prevent asymptomatic infection. This means that those who have been vaccinated might still be able to get infected without experiencing symptoms and unknowingly spread the virus.
- Scientists estimate that to control COVID-19, 70-80% of people will need to be immune. Maryland's goal is to immunize 80 percent of the state's population.
Five Basic Layers of Protection in Risk Reduction Efforts

1. Face Coverings
2. Physical Distancing
3. Handwashing
4. Self-Quarantine when needed informed by:
   - Daily Health Attestation (online) for both employees and students
   - Testing and Contact Tracing
5. Limiting Exposure by:
   - minimizing size of groups
   - adhering to posted occupancy limits
   - using virtual means of communication over in person as much as possible
A few closing thoughts

- We have a good, proven plan that we continue to improve.
- Realistically, we will have students and seminarians who test positive upon return. We will act quickly and compassionately to implement our isolation procedures, contact tracing and quarantine of close contacts.
- All are empowered and encouraged to both follow and enforce our 5 layers of protection
- Use friendly but firm on-the-spot corrections
- I will continuously evaluate our plans as the public health situation develops over the next two weeks.
- We are ready to continue delivering on our mission in the uncertainty of this pandemic environment