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Five Things You Should Know This Week

University Communications and Marketing

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February 8, 2021

In accordance with our Return to Campus plan, here are **Five Things You Should Know This Week**:

1. The latest information on vaccines

The Georgia Department of Public Health reports that anyone wanting a COVID-19 vaccine should [visit their website often](#) as the participating vaccine site locations list will be updated frequently. Additional locations statewide will be added when providers are ready to safely administer vaccines, and as vaccine supply allows. Public health departments are scheduling vaccines by appointment only, as are most other providers. For up-to-date COVID-19 information in Chatham and Liberty counties, visit <https://covid19.gachd.org/>. In Bulloch County, find out more at <https://www.sehdph.org/interested-in-receiving-your-covid-19-vaccine/>.

Georgia Southern is a provider of the vaccine in accordance with the phased approach established by the CDC and Georgia Department of Public Health, currently [DPH criteria is for Phase 1a](#). We have made extensive preparations and now are ready to deliver vaccines -- when they become available -- on both the Statesboro campus and on the Armstrong campus in Savannah. When more details and/or vaccines are available, information will be emailed directly to those who qualify.

We encourage members of our university community who qualify for a vaccine to take advantage of any opportunity to receive one. In support of our employees being vaccinated against COVID-19, we are asking supervisors to be as flexible as possible with employee work schedules to allow everyone the opportunity to receive both doses of the vaccine.

Georgia Southern has established a vaccine website for more information at <https://www.georgiasouthern.edu/covid-19-information/vaccine/>.

2. Once someone is vaccinated, wearing a face covering IS still required

Not enough information is currently available to say if or when CDC will stop recommending that people wear face coverings and avoid close contact with others to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide in real-world conditions before making that decision. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision. CDC hasn't yet been able to make a determination whether getting a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to other people, even if you don't get sick yourself. Find out more at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>.

3. Wings Up! Sleeves Up!

To encourage students and employees to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it becomes available to them, and to help direct Eagle Nation to point of dispensing (POD) vaccine sites, the university is launching a campaign called "Wings Up, Sleeves Up." Developed with input by faculty in our Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, the campaign will provide information for individuals to make informed decisions to take the vaccine, show why individuals are choosing to vaccinate, and reinforce the safety of the vaccination. Look for more information soon, and if you receive a vaccination, post it on social media and let everyone see your #WingsUpSleevesUp selfie!

4. Vaccines appear to work against new COVID-19 variants

The CDC reports that, so far, studies suggest that antibodies generated through vaccination with currently authorized vaccines recognize these variants. This is being closely investigated and more studies are underway. Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear. Other times, new variants emerge and persist. Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been documented in the United States and globally during this pandemic. Rigorous and increased compliance with public health mitigation strategies, such as vaccination, physical distancing, use of face coverings, hand hygiene, and isolation and quarantine, is essential to limit the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 and protect public health. Learn more at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>.

5. Those who have had COVID-19 should still get vaccinated

The CDC recommends that because of the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that reinfection with COVID-19 is possible, people should be vaccinated regardless of whether they already had COVID-19 infection. If anyone was treated for COVID-19 symptoms with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, they should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Consult a doctor with questions or if unsure what treatments were received. Find out more at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>.