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Five Things You Should Know This Week

University Communications and Marketing

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February 15, 2021

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

1. A \$1,000 bonus coming for many GS employees

The University System of Georgia announced Friday afternoon that all USG full-time employees earning less than \$80,000 a year will soon receive a one-time \$1,000 bonus. More information will be provided as soon as it is available.

2. Commencement details finalized for May

Taking into consideration the continuing pandemic, all public health considerations, the weather, visitors' comfort, as well as overwhelming feedback in favor of in-person commencement ceremonies, university officials have developed a plan to host a series of commencement ceremonies this spring.

The schedule will include six Spring 2021 graduation ceremonies from May 8 through May 13. As usual, all ceremonies will be livestreamed on the university's Facebook pages and at <https://www.georgiasouthern.edu/commencement/>, and all ceremonies are rain or shine events.

For details, see <https://www.georgiasouthern.edu/commencement/>.

3. COVID-19 vaccine forum scheduled for Wednesday evening

Hear from the experts! Is the Covid-19 vaccine safe? How does it work? Why should I get it? Get answers to these questions and many more on Wednesday, Feb. 17, 6-7 p.m. Georgia Southern's medical director and two faculty members from our own Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health will provide valuable information and answer questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. Moderated by Student Wellness & Health Promotion, participants will be able to submit questions to the experts after hearing a presentation about the vaccine, the technology behind it, and how the state and Georgia Southern are trying to distribute the vaccine.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://georgiasouthern.zoom.us/j/82538612884?pwd=c0R2bXdyaG9XWGdGemhxZ29HNW9RZz09>
Passcode: 283438

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16468769923,,82538612884#,,,,*283438# or +13017158592,,82538612884#,,,,*283438#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 825 3861 2884

Passcode: 283438

International numbers available: <https://georgiasouthern.zoom.us/j/kmqr2XFPI>

4. A reminder to be vigilant with public health guidelines

Please be reminded to continue prioritizing all of the precautions we know so well: *Do Right* by wearing face coverings, remaining socially distant from others, staying home when sick, washing your hands frequently, and contacting Georgia Southern's CARES Center when needed. We have shown our ability to keep COVID-19 largely away from our campuses, but we must remain vigilant in exercising responsibility both on and off campus so we can continue to keep our university community safe. Find out more at <https://www.georgiasouthern.edu/covid-19-information/>.

5. Sexual Assault Awareness Week is February 22-26

Georgia Southern's Sexual Assault Response Team is hosting Sexual Assault Awareness Week February 22-26. As part of that week, the Clothesline Project will have displays in the Russell Union Commons, Henderson Library, RAC, and over the pedestrian on the Statesboro Campus, and in the Student Union, Lane Library, and Learning Commons on the Armstrong Campus in Savannah. Information about Sexual Assault Awareness Week events can be found at <https://students.georgiasouthern.edu/counseling/sexual-assault-response-team/sexual-assault-awareness-week/>.

6. 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. In Bulloch County, the Southeast Health District reports they are reactivating their COVID-19 vaccination appointment scheduling process. Find out more at <https://www.sehdpd.org/>. For up-to-date COVID-19 information in Chatham and Liberty counties, where the district reports they are actively vaccinating, visit <https://covid19.gachd.org/>.

Georgia Southern has been designated as 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/>.