From: Perlas, Char
To: AllMailboxes

Subject: 8-24-21 All-College email

Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:25:19 PM
Attachments: THEA Building Survey Results.jpg

Vaccine Survey Results .jpg teamwork-quote-ship.png

Hello Siskiyous,

It has been a rough start to the semester and I hope all of you are finding ways to navigate through our first week challenges. This week's updates (bear with me....this week's email is longer than usual):

- Change in campus closure protocols (this also addresses a comment in the suggestion box): I have been meeting with SCPH the last two days and, they have given us approval to follow the California Department of Public Health School Closure Determinations.

 Shasta College is also following the same guidance which states:
 - -Within a 14-day period, an outbreak has occurred in 25% or more stable groups in the school.
 - -Within a 14-day period, at least three outbreaks have occurred in the school AND more than 5% of the school population is infected.
 - -The Local Health Office may also determine school closure is warranted for other reasons, including results from public health investigation or other local epidemiological data.

In regards to employees and COVID outbreaks, per CalOSHA: (1) This section applies to any workplace covered by section 3205 if 20 or more employee COVID-19 cases in an exposed group, as defined by section 3205(b), visited the workplace during their high-risk exposure period within a 30-day period.

This new protocol will go into effect when we re-open on Mon. Aug 30th. I am working with Dawnie to update our mitigation plan.

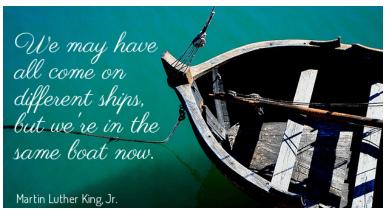
- Theater Building and Vaccination Survey Results: Both are attached. In a nutshell, Theater Building Survey Results show that Scenario 3 was the preferred scenario.
 Comments included:
 - -Need more information
 - -Find a performance company to lease the theater creating a revenue stream
 - -Wait several years
 - -Do what it takes to draw more students to the area

Vaccination survey results reflected a close 50/50 split: 56 are in favor of mandated vaccinations for employees and students and 51 are in favor of not mandating vaccinations for employees and students. We have a meeting scheduled, with constituency leaders, this Thursday morning to review survey results and make a recommendation on how we will move forward. I have also sought direction from our Public Health Officer, Aaron Stutz.

- **Suggestion Box (x8):** The suggestion box was full this week. There was one comment regarding a dedicated lactation room for students as well as employees. The other 7 comments were related to COVID and vaccinations.
 - Lactation Rooms I am following up with VP Walton regarding AP 5203 as well as processes and procedures for employees. I will provide an update next week.
 - -To mandate or not to mandate vaccinations & increase in COVID cases Comment in favor of showing proof of vaccination or weekly testing. Comment recommending weekly testing for all (vaccinated and non-vaccinated). Comment regarding re-visiting hybrid telecommuting options to mitigate the spread of COVID. Comment not in support of mandating vaccinations for fear of losing students. Comment regarding the danger of vaccines and ethical objections to being vaccinated. Comment regarding updating the mitigation plan and campus closure protocols (see bullet #1). Comment asking to require vaccinations.

As you can see from the survey results as well as the comments above, there are varying opinions regarding vaccinations. SCPH has stated that vaccinated individuals should not be tested for COVID unless they have symptoms. The decision to mandate or not to mandate vaccinations is obviously a difficult one. There's not one decision that will appease everyone. We also want to be sensitive to feelings of safety vs. individual choice. As mentioned earlier, we have a meeting this Thursday to have further discussions and I will provide an update in next week's email. In regards to hybrid schedules, after consultation with Exec and, to address any density issues (ie, number of individuals in an enclosed area), please submit any hybrid work proposals you may have to your immediate supervisor for consideration.

We have been dealing with the COVID pandemic for the last 18 months (feels like 3 years) and, it doesn't look like things will get easier. As mentioned in my opening Convocation welcome, we are all in this together. Please take care of yourselves.



Char Perlas, PhD MPA MS

Interim Superintendent/President College of the Siskiyous 800 College Ave.

College of the Siskiyous Vision

Transforming students' lives through lifelong learning and success.