



Community Update 3.31.22

Wellness, Coe College <wellness@coe.edu>

Thu, Mar 31, 2022 at 10:23 AM

Reply-To: wellness@coe.edu

To: All Students <allstudents@coe.edu>, All Faculty/Staff <allfacultystaff@coe.edu>

Dear Kohawks,

See below for important updates and information.

Update: Campus Community and COVID-19

Currently there are **two** students in quarantine or isolation and additionally, **zero** faculty or staff members are positive as of today.

Numbers of students in quarantine or isolation are updated twice per week on the [Coe website](#).

New: Second Booster Dose Recommended for Some Individuals

The CDC is updating its recommendations to allow certain immunocompromised individuals and people over the age of 50 who received an initial booster dose at least 4 months ago to be eligible for another mRNA booster to increase their protection against severe disease from COVID-19. Separately and in addition, based on newly published data, adults who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months ago may now receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorizations as follows:

- A second booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine may be administered to individuals 50 years of age and older at least 4 months after receipt of a first booster dose of any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.
- A second booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine may be administered to individuals 12 years of age and older with certain kinds of immunocompromise at least 4 months after receipt of a first booster dose of any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.
- A second booster dose of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine may be administered at least 4 months after the first booster dose of any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine to individuals 18 years of age and older with certain kinds of immunocompromise.

If you believe you fall into this one of these categories, you should consult with your healthcare provider for appropriate recommendations. Coe will not be administering further booster doses on campus at this time, however, there are ample locations within the community to obtain an additional dose.

New: BA.2 Omicron Subvariant

Our COVID Leadership team is aware of the Omicron subvariant, BA.2, and continues to monitor both local and national data closely. Vaccination, staying home and testing when ill, covering coughs and sneezes and frequent handwashing remain the best way(s) to protect yourself and the community against COVID and other illnesses. The data both locally and nationally tells us that the community risk remains low. Vaccines

are still readily available and we continue to offer both rapid antigen and PCR testing on-campus. We will continue to keep campus informed of changes to the data.

Reminder: Masking Mandate End

As outlined in the community update on 3/4/22, the masking mandate has been lifted and masking optional has become the default approach to all campus spaces. Faculty may request, but not require, masks to be worn in classrooms, labs, rehearsal halls and offices.

Reminder: Linn County data and Coe's Community Benchmarks

Linn County's positivity rate remains low and based on the CDC's metrics, Linn County remains designated as a **low risk county**. (See the map and guidance [here](#).) Below are the benchmarks the COVID Leadership committee is continuing to monitor:

- The **Coe community positive rate** continues to be under 1%.
- The Coe community has surpassed 85% **vaccination rate** in the student population and 94% for faculty and staff.
- The CDC is listing **Linn County's** community level as low.
- **Hospital capacity** is listed as green (capacity established).

Reminder: Testing Resources

Students can continue to access free COVID testing on-campus by completing [this form](#).

Stay safe and healthy Kohawks!

--

COE WELLNESS

FIND YOUR BALANCE

