

Dear Members of the Keystone Community:

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I would like to share some excellent news that impacts our entire Keystone College community.

I am happy to report that, as of today, 91 percent of Keystone students and 99 percent of Keystone employees are fully vaccinated. This is a huge step forward as we continue our ongoing quest to return to a more normal routine in the long and arduous battle against COVID-19.

As early as last summer, and then throughout the course of this semester, we stressed the importance of vaccinations as the best way to provide for the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff. That was the reasoning behind our vaccination policy announcements.

You responded! Our reported COVID-19 cases this semester are considerably below last year's totals. As we conclude the current semester and plan for the spring 2022 semester, we can do so knowing that we will have a safer and healthier campus and, hopefully, an even less restrictive environment next semester. Of course, we will keep you updated on changes in policies and procedures as they develop.

However, the battle against the pandemic is not over, especially because of rising numbers of positive cases due to the highly infectious Delta variant. Many people in our region, state, and nation continue to be impacted by the pandemic as medical and public health professionals encourage vaccinations for all eligible recipients. Therefore, we encourage everyone to follow all previously announced campus protocols and procedures as specified on our [website](#), including frequent hand washing and mask wearing indoors through the end of the semester, as recommended by the CDC. We will monitor COVID-19 case rates on a weekly basis. Hopefully, as cases decline locally and elsewhere, we can ease mask restrictions in the future and we will advise the campus community accordingly.

For now, I just want to say thank you to everyone! I appreciate all that you have done for each other. Please enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends while remaining safe and healthy during the break.

Sincerely,  
Tracy L. Brundage, Ph.D.