
COVID-19 Update

1 message

Barbara Beebe<bbeebe@wtc.edu>

Tue, Jun 2, 2020 at 11:28 AM

To: Faculty <faculty@wtc.edu>, Staff <staff@wtc.edu>, Book Store <bookstore@wtc.edu>, WTC Cafeteria <cafeteria@wtc.edu>, TD Industries <tdi@wtc.edu>, Nicole DeGuzman <scmdirector@snydertex.com>, adjuncts <adjuncts@wtc.edu>, WTC Security <security@wtc.edu>, Jamie Redwine <jamie.redwine@wtc.edu>, "Anthony (Tony) Keen" <anthony.keen@wtc.edu>
Bcc: board@wtc.edu

Good morning everyone!

Unfortunately, this week our COVID-19 numbers rose quite a bit. Eight new cases were reported yesterday, all first responders. Six were from the Sheriff's office, one from the fire department and one from the police department. I believe the report mentioned that all were asymptomatic. This highlights the importance of protecting yourself and others by wearing a face covering when out in public, frequently washing and sanitizing your hands, and practicing social distancing. As of yesterday, the case numbers are as follows:

Tests	Pending	Negative	Positive	Recovered	Total Positive to Date
839	127	680	30	2	32

Although the main symptoms of COVID-19 are reported to be a cough, shortness of breath, and a fever, those with the illness have presented a wide range of symptoms. These have included fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea. While these symptoms mimic many other illnesses, they normally present alongside the main COVID-19 symptoms.

Well I read about another symptom the other day that I thought I'd share with you - Covid toe. No lie. There is an increase in the number of people reporting symptoms of chilblains, which are painful red or purple lesions that typically appear in the winter on fingers or toes. The lesions are emerging as yet another symptom of COVID-19. Chilblains are caused by inflammation in small blood vessels in reaction to cold or damp conditions, but they are usually most common in the cold winter months. Federal health officials do not include toe lesions in the list of coronavirus symptoms, but some dermatologists are pushing for a change, saying so-called Covid toe should be sufficient grounds for testing.

This week's apt quote is from businessman and inventor Charles Kettering, holder of 186 patents,

You will never stub your toe standing still. The faster you go, the more chance there is of stubbing your toe, but the more chance you have of getting somewhere.

Stay safe and stay well!

Barb

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Barbara Beebe <bbeebe@wtc.edu>

COVID-19 Update

1 message

Barbara Beebe <bbeebe@wtc.edu>

Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 10:05 AM

To: Faculty <faculty@wtc.edu>, Staff <staff@wtc.edu>, Book Store <bookstore@wtc.edu>, WTC Cafeteria <cafeteria@wtc.edu>, TD Industries <tdi@wtc.edu>, Nicole DeGuzman <scmdirector@snydertex.com>, adjuncts <adjuncts@wtc.edu>, WTC Security <security@wtc.edu>, Jamie Redwine <jamie.redwine@wtc.edu>, "Anthony (Tony) Keen" <anthony.keen@wtc.edu>
Bcc: board@wtc.edu

Good Morning All!

If you've been following the County updates you've seen what a crazy few days this has been for our COVID-19 numbers. From reported asymptomatic positive cases, to false positives, to numerous retests, to reporting numbers in a different format, it's been puzzling to say the least. Since the tests administered and tests pending included several retests, the county has decided to focus only on the positive cases and those recovered. For more in depth explanations of last week's happenings, please visit <https://sites.google.com/snyderisd.net/scurry-county-covid19/home>, which is also available as one of the rotator pages on our website wtc.edu.

As of Friday, May 5th the COVID-19 numbers for Scurry County are:

Total Active Positive Cases	Recovered	Positive Cases Year to Date
24	2	26

While confusing, this is good news for Scurry County. We are incredibly fortunate not to have the large number of cases many of our surrounding counties have experienced. Please do not get complacent, however. Continue to protect yourself and others by wearing a face covering when out in public, wash and sanitize your hands often, and practice social distancing.

On a happier note, if you have not yet viewed our virtual graduation, please check it out at <https://wtcedu.me/2020graduation>. Many thanks and much gratitude go out to Lorenzo Sands and Corey Knipe for putting together such a splendid commencement ceremony! While this certainly wasn't the way any of us wanted the Class of 2020 to be celebrated, I am proud of our virtual ceremony and hope our students enjoy it. Many thanks also go out to the faculty and staff who taped video messages of congratulations for our students. That is my favorite part of the entire video! Thank you all for your enthusiasm, dedication, and perseverance this semester, and thank you for always thinking of our students!

This week I'm offering two germane quotes, one tongue-in-cheek regarding our current COVID-19 situation, and one in honor of our graduates.

The first is from author Tom Peters:

If you're not confused, you're not paying attention.

And the second is attributed to the late lawyer and politician Edward Koch,

The fireworks begin today. Each diploma is a lighted match. Each one of you is a fuse.

Stay well and make it a wonderful week!

Barb

6/8/2020

Western Texas College Mail - COVID-19 Update

Dr. Barbara R. Beebe

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Tentative Fall Game Plan

1 message

Barbara Beebe <bbeebe@wtc.edu>

Sun, Jun 14, 2020 at 10:31 PM

To: Faculty <faculty@wtc.edu>, Staff <staff@wtc.edu>, Book Store <bookstore@wtc.edu>, WTC Cafeteria <cafeteria@wtc.edu>, TD Industries <tdi@wtc.edu>, Nicole DeGuzman <scmdirector@snydertex.com>, adjuncts <adjuncts@wtc.edu>, WTC Security <security@wtc.edu>, Jamie Redwine <jamie.redwine@wtc.edu>, "Anthony (Tony) Keen" <anthony.keen@wtc.edu>

Bcc: board@wtc.edu

Hope everyone had a very happy Flag Day today,



If you haven't yet heard, I'm happy to share the great news that Scurry County can open at 75% occupancy. Our COVID-19 numbers are also headed in the right direction. As of Friday at 1:00 pm, there were 16 active positive cases with 12 recovered, for a total of 28 positive cases to date. Better safe than sorry however, so please continue to wear a face covering when shopping or in close quarters with others and wash and sanitize your hands often.

Although summer has not yet officially begun, I know a lot of people are already wondering what this fall will bring for WTC. At the moment, **and please remember that decisions can change in an instant**, I plan on our fall semester being taught face to face, with our campus, dorms and athletic teams operating as they did last fall. There will be one significant change however. Classes will begin a week earlier and will end at Thanksgiving break. Students will leave for Thanksgiving break and will not be back on campus until January. This means that classes will begin August 12th and finals will conclude Monday, November 23rd (in effect, Friday November 20th). This will hopefully help in reducing the spread of any fall bug that may come along. There are still many items to be worked out and we are continually planning for all potential eventualities.

I am also opening up the campus to student visits beginning June 22nd. I would like any recruiting visits, and those student visits we can control, to be scheduled so we can ensure everyone's safety. This will also help in the event someone is exposed to the coronavirus and we need to trace their contacts.

I know this email probably raises more questions than it answers and without a crystal ball I can not guarantee *any* plans will go off without a hitch. However, I am confident in moving forward in a positive manner and can think of nothing more positive than getting our students back on campus and getting back to some semblance of normalcy.

Thank you all for everything you do. I know this has been an unprecedented trying time for everyone, but we will get through this, together, and come out stronger for the fray.

Today's quote is attributed to Sir Winston Churchill, "*Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.*"

Make it a great day!

Barb

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Update on viruses, finances and the fall

1 message

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Sun, Jun 28, 2020 at 11:44 PM

To: Staff <staff@wtc.edu>, Faculty <faculty@wtc.edu>, adjuncts <adjuncts@wtc.edu>, Book Store <bookstore@wtc.edu>, WTC Cafeteria <cafeteria@wtc.edu>, TD Industries <tdi@wtc.edu>, Nicole DeGuzman <scmdirector@snydertex.com>, WTC Security <security@wtc.edu>, Jamie Redwine <jamie.redwine@wtc.edu>, "Anthony (Tony) Keen" <anthony.keen@wtc.edu>
Bcc: board@wtc.edu

Good Evening Everyone,

Although in numerous states the number of COVID-19 cases are reported to be rising, I'm happy to report that as of Friday the 26th, Scurry County Total Active Positive Cases are now at 12 (down from 16 two weeks ago), with 20 recovered, for a total of 32 positive cases to date. In response to the increase in cases in Texas, Executive Order GA-28, issued Friday by Governor Abbott, closed all bars, and reduced the occupancy of restaurants to 50% or less. To help us continue our downward trend, please wear a face covering when shopping or in close quarters with others and wash and sanitize your hands often.

You've read before that any decision can change in an instant, nevertheless we are continuing to plan on our fall semester being taught face to face, with classes beginning August 12th and finals ending Monday, November 23rd (in effect, Friday November 20th). Again, we are still working through the details and we will continue to plan for all possibilities.

I wanted to also be totally transparent as we seek to balance the budget during this unprecedented time. Finances are very tight and we are currently in the process of trying to "find" approximately \$750,000. Thankfully we are **not** considering reducing salaries or eliminating positions like some colleges have had to do, however we are requiring that all essential purchases be pre-approved by your supervisor. All non-essential expenditures will be delayed until further notice, and only essential vacant positions will be filled. Administrative staff are working diligently on the budget however, and anticipate presenting a trim but balanced budget to the Board during our July Board meeting.

Like my last email, I know this one raises more questions than it answers. I am encouraged to hear that our students are looking forward to returning to campus and I remain confident in moving forward in an optimistic manner.

Thank you again for everything you do!

Today's apt quote is attributed to Benjamin Franklin, "*Beware of little expenses. A small leak will sink a great ship.*"

Barb

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