



September 24, 2021

To Faculty, Staff and Students,

This week we welcomed the official start of autumn, and the cooler weather provides us an excellent opportunity to enjoy activities outdoors. Whether you are gathering with friends inside or out, remember to follow safety guidelines such as social distancing and mask wearing. Our university [website](#) is there whenever you need current information or helpful resources.

According to CDC and DHEC data, COVID-19 cases remain high in our community. That means the risk of being exposed to COVID-19 off campus, where mitigation efforts such as universal masking are not in place, are significant.

In addition, our local hospitals are having to expand capacity to address high caseloads. On Wednesday, Sept. 22, DHEC reported that hospital occupancy in Spartanburg County was 97.7%, and occupancy in Greenville County hospitals was 85.4%. The vast majority of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are in unvaccinated individuals. If you are unvaccinated, it is vital that you get vaccinated for your health and the health of those around you.

Health Services

The next Pfizer clinic is scheduled for **Friday, Oct. 1**, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the Spartan Recreation Center. You may preregister for dose 1 or dose 2 through [MyHealth](#).

Booster shots will also be available at the clinic for eligible individuals, subject to availability. As noted in [today's announcement](#) from the CDC, boosters are recommended for residents in long-term care facilities; those 65 and older; and those 50-64 with [underlying medical conditions](#). If you fall into one of those categories, and received your second dose of the Pfizer vaccine on or before April 1, 2021, you can preregister [here](#) for the Oct. 1 clinic. The information you provide will only be reviewed by Health Services team members. **You will be notified by Thursday, Sept. 30, if you have an appointment time for the Oct. 1 clinic.**

Congratulations to this week's VAX UP drawing winners: students Kimitra Mullins, Janki Patel, Theresa Alapatt, Stephanie McKinney-Holliday, Natalya Wilson, and Tatyana Holmes, and staff members Catherine Con and Lynne Gibbs. Remember to submit your completed vaccine card to be eligible for the next Wednesday prize drawing. Winners will be notified on Tuesday so they can attend.

Academic Affairs

Provost Schecter will be answering questions at today's Faculty Senate meeting during the Administrative Updates portion. As always, we encourage all faculty and staff to speak to their vice chancellors, deans or department chairs about any concerns.

Facilities

Our Facilities teams continue to work diligently to provide a safe environment on campus. Should you observe any unsafe conditions on campus, please report them using the form [here](#).

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to keep our campus and community safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennie L. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Bennie L. Harris
Chancellor

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Up is where we live.