

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES'
REPORT AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

**February 16, 2022
Conference Call Meeting**

The final report can be found on the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees Website at
<http://www.uwyo.edu/trustees/>

University of Wyoming Mission Statement (July 2017)

We honor our heritage as the state's flagship and land-grant university by providing accessible and affordable higher education of the highest quality; rigorous scholarship; the communication and application of knowledge; economic and community development; and responsible stewardship of our cultural, historical and natural resources.

In the exercise of our primary mission to promote learning, we seek to provide academic and co-curricular opportunities that will:

- Graduate students who have experienced the frontiers of scholarship and creative activity and who are prepared for the complexities of an interdependent world;
- Cultivate a community of learning energized by collaborative work among students, faculty, staff and external partners.
- Nurture an environment that values and manifests diversity, internationalization, free expression, academic freedom, personal integrity and mutual respect; and
- Promote opportunities for personal health and growth, physical health, athletic competition and leadership development for all members of the university community.

As Wyoming's only public university, we are committed to scholarship, outreach and service that extend our human talent and technological capacity to serve the people in our communities, our state, the nation and the world.

TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING AGENDA
February 16, 2022
Conference Call Meeting

*Note: Only topics that have support materials provided in advance of the meeting are contained within this report.
Topics that will be discussed with only a verbal report do not have information included.*

WORK SESSIONS

Consideration and Action: Mask Policy – Seidel/Jones	4
Discussion: November 2022 meeting logistics – Marsh/Seidel.....	11

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Spring 2022 COVID-19 Campus Plan, Seidel, Jones

SESSION TYPE:

- ☐ Work Session
- ☐ Education Session
- ☐ Information Item
- ☒ Other:

[Committee of the Whole – Items for Approval]

☒ *Attachments are provided with the narrative.*

APPLIES TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

- ☐ Yes (select below):
 - ☐ Driving Excellence
 - ☐ Inspiring Students
 - ☐ Impacting Communities
 - ☐ High-Performing University
- ☒ No [Regular Business]

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Board will receive an update on UW's efforts to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus, which includes discussion of the Omicron variant and the mask policy. Upon recommendation of the President's COVID Advisory Group (see full recommendation in attached report), the President recommends the following related to masks.

Effective February 21, 2022, masks will be recommended (not required) except for the following:

1. Masks will continue to be required in **all medically-related units**, including:
 - a. Student Health Services,
 - b. Medical Clinic area within Athletics
 - c. Family Medicine Residency Programs in Casper and Cheyenne
 - d. Albany Community Health Clinic
 - e. UW Speech & Hearing Clinic
2. Masks will be required in **all UW classrooms**.
3. Masks will be required in any **UW campus office** when it is requested by the office occupant.
4. Masks will be required in the **UW Early Childhood Education Center**.

The University still strongly encourage individuals to choose to wear masks in other areas of campus.

The president recommends that this revised mask policy, should it be approved by the Board, remain in effect until the March 2022 Board meeting, at which time the University will have more information on the Omicron variant and is moving towards a recommendation to the Board that the mask policy be removed.

The University will continue to monitor County Transmission Indicators and in the event of a significant (and sustained) increase in transmission risk, the modified policy might be revisited.

PRIOR RELATED BOARD DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS:

At its May 2020 meeting, the Board authorized a preliminary plan to open the university campus for the Fall 2020 semester. At its July 2020 meeting, the Board moved to authorize modification

to the university's plan to restart campus, to require face coverings, and allow administration to make further modifications to campus plans related to COVID-19 without Board approval. At its March 2021 meeting, the Board passed a resolution directing the university president authority to reopen the university campus consistent with health policy guidelines and directives of the state and federal governments with regard to COVID-19. At its May 2021 meeting, the Board moved to not mandate COVID-19 vaccines, to follow CDC guidance with regard to social distancing and facial coverings, and sunset the university's mandatory surveillance program as of June 30, 2021. At its August 2021 meeting, the Board moved to approve the Fall 2021 COVID-19 Campus Plan to include a temporary mask mandate, and President Seidel's additions of a mandatory education program for employees and students, one-time COVID-19 testing of all students and employees prior to the start of the semester, a stronger public information campaign, and the formation of a COVID-19 Advisory Committee led by College of Health Science Dean David Jones. At its September 2021 meeting, the Board authorized the continuation of the current mask policy to be revisited at each subsequent Board meeting. On October 12, 2021 and again on November 18, 2021, the Board moved to continue the current mask policy as stated on page 8 of the updated COVID-19 Plan.

On December 15, 2021, the Board voted to approve the Spring 2022 COVID Policy, including continuing the current mask policy until its February 16, 2022, Board of Trustees conference call, at which time the mask policy would be revisited.

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE BOARD:

Continued updates on UW's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS BOARD MEETING:

Board approval, disapproval or modification of the mask policy.

PROPOSED MOTION:

"Effective February 21, 2022, masks will be recommended (not required) except for the following:

1. Masks will continue to be required in **all medically-related units**, including:
 - a. Student Health Services,
 - b. Medical Clinic area within Athletics
 - c. Family Medicine Residency Programs in Casper and Cheyenne
 - d. Albany Community Health Clinic
 - e. UW Speech & Hearing Clinic
2. Masks will be required in **all UW classrooms**.
3. Masks will be required in any **UW campus office** when it is requested by the office occupant.

Masks will be required in the **UW Early Childhood Education Center**

I also move to revisit this policy at the March 2022 Board of Trustees meeting."

PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

The President recommends approval.



College of Health Sciences

Dean's Office

Dept. 3432 • 1000 E. University Avenue

Laramie, WY 82071

(307) 766-3495

DATE: 2/7/22

TO: Ed Seidel, President
University of Wyoming

FROM: Presidential COVID Advisory Group

RE: Update and New Recommendation

COVID-19 Information Update

Public Health update for the week of 1/30/22 to 2/5/22

Statewide

- 4,351 cases in Wyoming (8,336 cases in Wyoming previous week)
- 50 long-term care facilities with active cases
- 50 nursing home facilities in outbreak mode; 125 staff/resident cases (200 cases previous week)
-

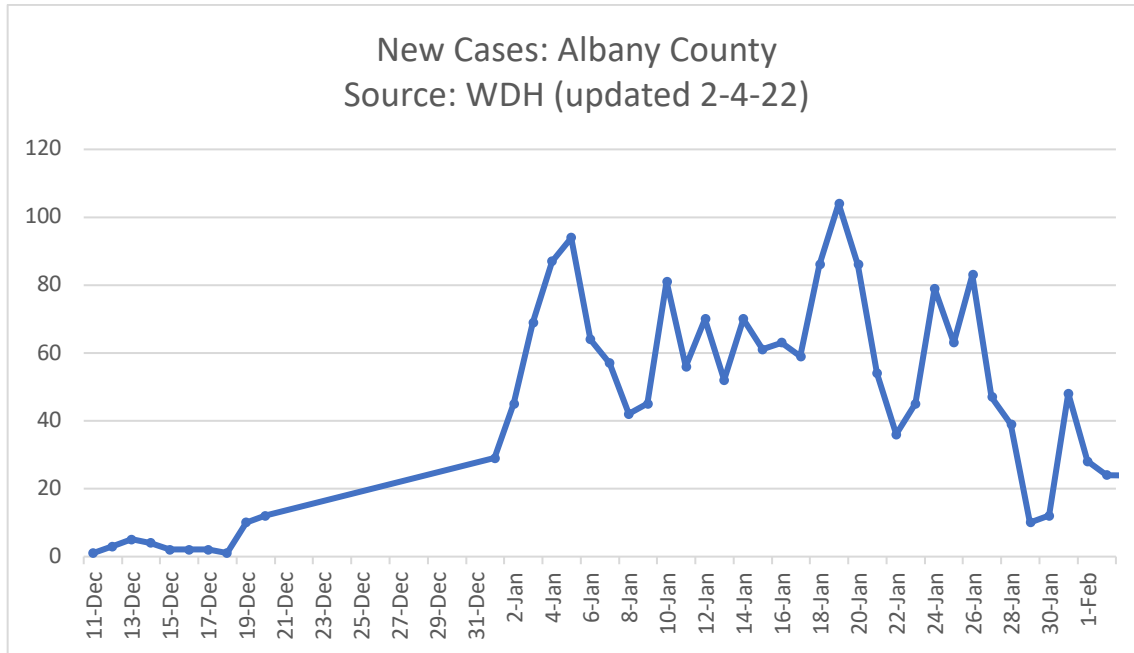
Albany County

- 196 cases (496 cases previous week)

Transmission Indicators for Albany County

	Jan 6-19	Jan 13-26	Jan 20-Feb 2
Daily New Cases / 100,000	2,315 Very High	2,446 Very High	1,993 Very High
Test Percent Positivity	15.2% High	15.4% High	13.2% High
OVERALL	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH	HIGH

New Case Trends: Albany County



This figure shows that the surge in cases that lasted during the month of January in Albany County may be on the decline. (Note: WDH revises county data on a regular basis. Cases reported in late January-early February will most likely be increased over the next several days.)

Laramie County

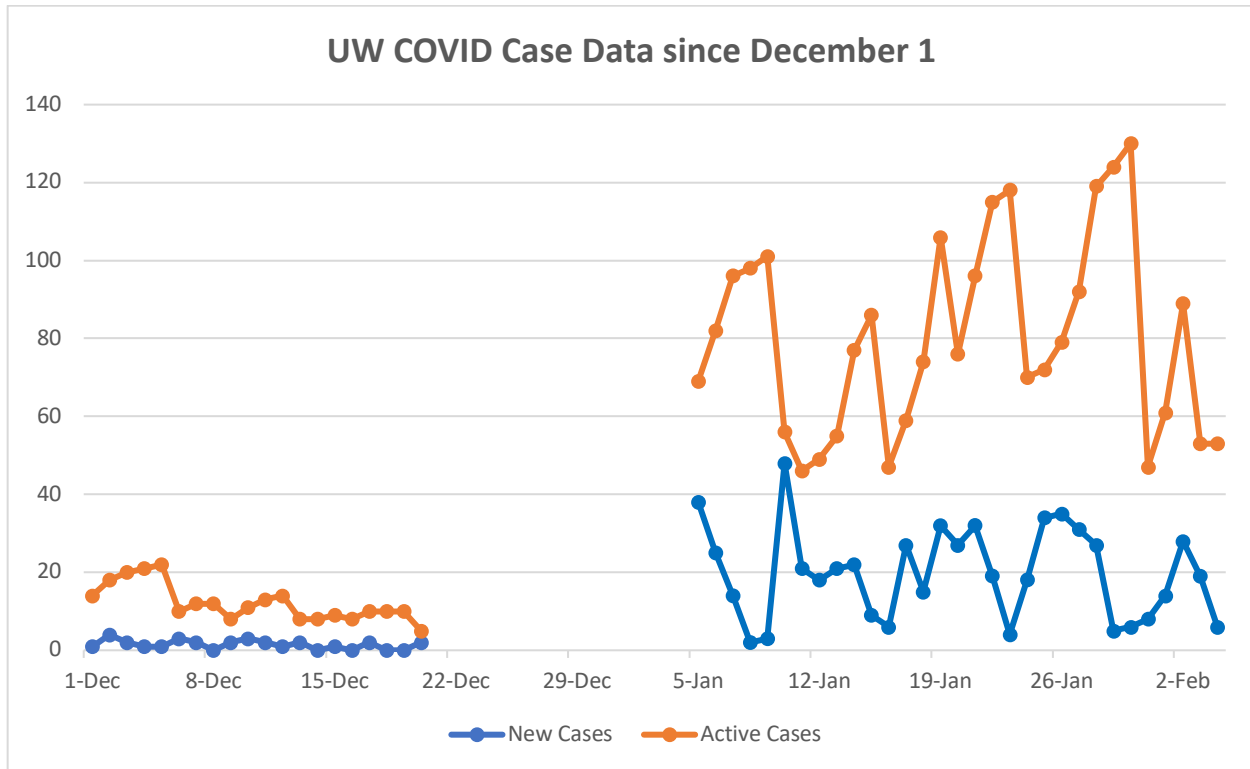
- 1000 pediatric cases in January
- 30 patients hospitalized

Natrona County

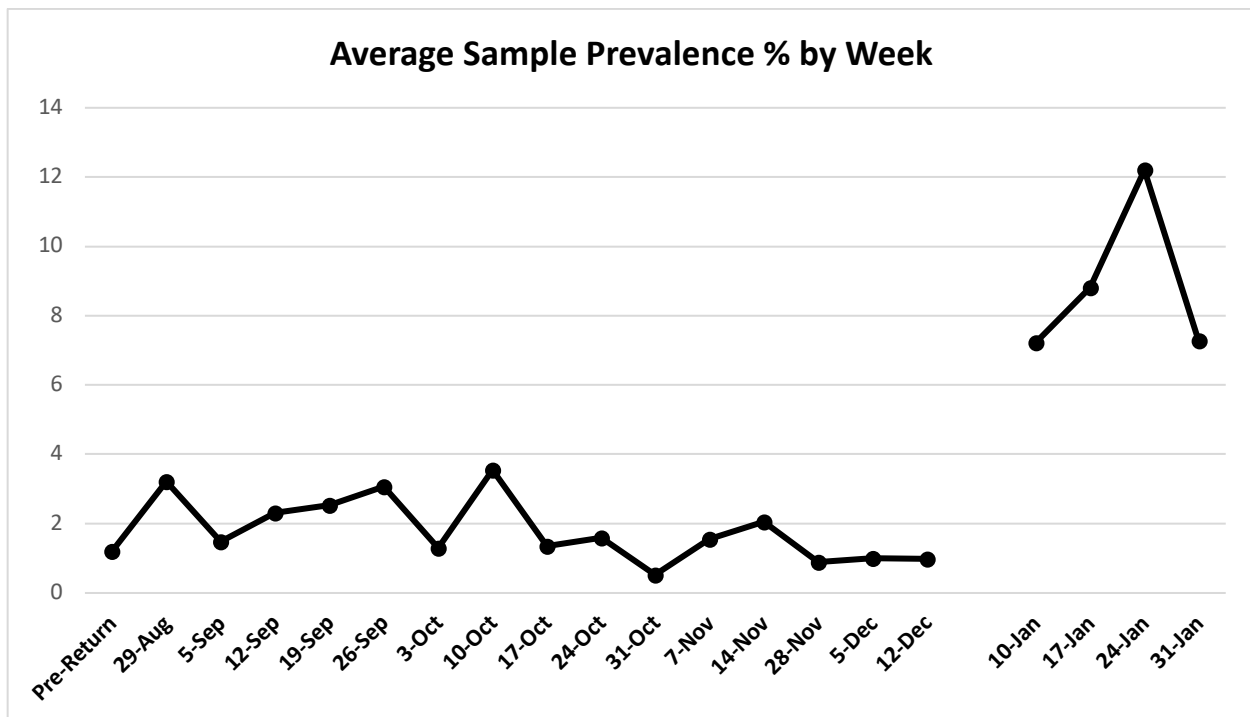
- A lot of businesses closed due to lack of staffing
- 45-50 patients at Wyoming Medical Center; 45-50 employees out with COVID
- Majority of hospitalized are not vaccinated; several vaccinated but not boosted

Effective 1/31/22, Moderna has been given full FDA approval for individuals 18 and over.

UW Community (no data reported from Dec 21-Jan 4)



This figure shows a significant increase in New and Active Cases in January compared to the end of the Fall semester. There is no strong trend in Active or New Cases since early January.



Sample prevalence percentages in January have been significantly higher compared to Fall semester. After a relatively high prevalence percentage during the week of January 24, sample prevalence decreased the following week.

Considerations for the Remainder of the Spring 2022 Semester

Current Trend in Cases

Although the UW campus data do not show a trend as of yet, it appears that the surge in cases related to Omicron has peaked statewide (and nationwide), and a significant decrease in cases has begun.

The Next Variant

A new variant of Omicron--the B variant--has been identified in South Africa. Thus far, it is considered to be more transmissible than the “A” variant, but the severity of symptoms is similar to the A variant. It is imperative that global prevalence of the B variant be monitored.

Vaccines

UW needs to intensify its messaging about the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine, and in particular, the advantage of receiving the booster. Student Health Services has begun to administer Moderna booster doses; they plan to coordinate additional booster clinics in the next several weeks.

Masking Policy

The Advisory Group met on February 7th and discussed at length the current UW masking policy and whether it should be continued, revised, or discontinued altogether. A number of concerns were expressed regarding the current UW policy:

- The pre-determined exceptions to the policy that was crafted in August 2021 have caused the campus policy to be viewed as highly ambiguous.
- There is no enforcement of the current policy, and no individual or unit is eager to enforce the policy.
- The concerns mentioned above, coupled with “COVID fatigue” and apathy, have resulted in reduced adherence to the current campus masking policy.
- The position of faculty-students-staff regarding the current masking policy is mixed. A significant number have voiced a preference for discontinuing the policy; a significant number prefer to maintain the policy.
- The greatest risk of viral transmission--on a larger scale--continues to be in the classroom. Although the lack of social distancing plays a role, it is the duration of potential exposure in the classroom that is cause for concern.
- Although there were varying opinions within the group regarding continuing or discontinuing the current mask policy, the majority question whether it might be premature to discontinue the mask policy altogether.

Recommendation Regarding the UW Masking Policy

The current masking policy states that masks are required whenever “social distancing” cannot be achieved. This policy excludes UW events on campus where attendance is voluntary.

In the interest of providing a policy that is more straightforward, the Advisory Group is proposing the following recommendations:

1. Effective February 21, 2022:
 - a. Masks will continue to be required in **all medically-related units**, including:
 - i. Student Health Services,
 - ii. Medical Clinic area within Athletics
 - iii. Family Medicine Residency Programs in Casper and Cheyenne
 - iv. Albany Community Health Clinic
 - v. UW Speech & Hearing Clinic
 - b. Masks will be required in **all UW classrooms**.
 - c. Masks will be required in any **UW campus office** when it is requested by the office occupant.
 - d. Masks will be required in the **UW Early Childhood Education Center**.
 - e. The UW supports those who choose to wear masks in other areas of campus.
2. The revised masking policy will remain in effect until the Albany County COVID Transmission Indicators show an overall transmission level that is **Low for 3 consecutive weeks**.
3. County Transmission Indicators will continue to be monitored. In the event of a significant (and sustained) increase in transmission risk, the modified policy should be revisited.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: November 16-18, 2022, UW Board of Trustees Meeting Logistics,
Seidel

SESSION TYPE:

- ☐ Work Session
- ☐ Education Session
- ☐ Information Item
- ☒ Other:

[Committee of the Whole – Items for Approval]

APPLIES TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

- ☐ Yes (select below):
 - ☐ Driving Excellence
 - ☐ Inspiring Students
 - ☐ Impacting Communities
 - ☐ High-Performing University
- ☐ No [Regular Business]

☐ *Attachments are provided with the narrative—refer to Supplemental Materials Report.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Wyoming Business Alliance and the Wyoming Heritage Foundation will hold the 2022 Governor's Business Forum November 15-17, 2022. The forum is the state's premier event for analysis and discussion about the Wyoming's economic and business climate. This conference attracts the state's largest assemblage of business, civic, and political leaders. Cindy Delancey, President of the Wyoming Business Alliance has approached UW President Ed Seidel to explore the possibility of the University of Wyoming hosting the forum this November.

President Seidel believes that inviting the Governor's Business Forum to the University of Wyoming would complement the institution's strategic vision related to local and statewide economic development, build stakeholder connections, and showcase opportunities for corporate partnerships with the university's new Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation that will be stood up this summer.

The Governor's Business Forum will require the use of the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center, and possibly the UW Conference Center to accommodate its ~600 attendees. The Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center is reserved for the UW Board of Trustees November 16-18, 2022, meeting. In the event the Board wishes to relocate its meeting, the Wyoming Union ballrooms and ancillary 2nd floor meeting rooms have been alternatively reserved. There is no fee associated with the use of the Wyoming Union; reserved parking for members of the Board will be identified; and IT and UW Catering are able to support a meeting in this location.

PRIOR RELATED BOARD DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS:

N/A

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE BOARD:

UW President Ed Seidel requests the Board consider relocating its November 16-18, 2022, meeting to accommodate the Governor's Business Forum.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS BOARD MEETING:

N/A

PROPOSED MOTION:

N/A

PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: N/A