

Mount Mercy

TIMES

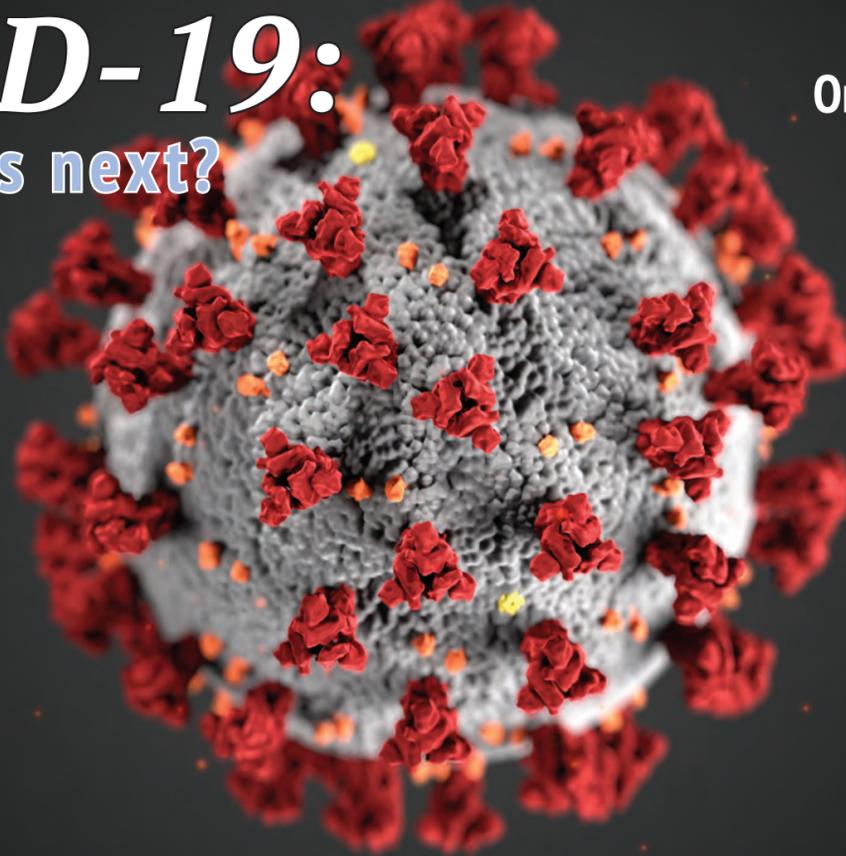
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COVID-19: What comes next?

MMU Starts On-Campus Testing, Vaccine Plans



CDC image/CDC.gov

The Centers for Disease Control created this illustration of what the virus that causes COVID-19 looks like. The spikes on the virus surface are the crown-like structure that makes it a "corona" virus.

Pandemic Stories Inside This Issue:

The MMU Times has a special "Corona Diaries" blog on our web site that describes staff member's pandemic experience. This week, Jada Veasey, senior opinion editor, writes about COVID-19 burnout, in a blog post we also print on page 4. Also on page 4 is a story about athletes and COVID-19. Our "Faith on the Hill" columnist writes about dialogue in these times on page 3.

CDC image/CDC.gov

A volunteer participates in a vaccine trial at Padjadjaran University, Bandung, West Java, Indonesia in August, 2020. This Voice of America image was posted by the CDC.



Want a COVID-19 Shot? Great! But the Question is When ...

By Jessica Abdoney
Staff Writer

Mount Mercy University has been approved as a vaccine distribution site but don't expect to roll up your sleeve anytime soon.

Linn County Public Health has not been able to say when a vaccine will be approved or how long it will take until Mount Mercy receives them according to Nate Klein, vice president of student success.

According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, vaccinations follow a five-tier scheme of priority. Mount Mercy is categorized as a tier two site, behind the health care industry and food supply chain.

When a vaccine does get approved, do not expect life to immediately return to normal.

"The professionals are saying do not expect normalcy again until 2022," said Melodie Jolly, professor in nursing. "It really depends on when that vaccine comes out, what the type of vaccine is, and also we need to know what the effectiveness of the vaccine is, too." The current presidential

Facts on the Vaccine

Here, according to the sources consulted by the Times, are fast facts about a COVID-19 vaccine:

There are currently five different vaccines that are in the furthest in phase three trials.

In order to be approved by the FDA, the vaccines need to have at least 50 percent effectiveness. To put this into perspective, the flu vaccine has an effectiveness of 40 to 50 percent.

Only one out of the five vaccines require a single dose. The other four require two doses separated in a 21 or 28-day period.

Unlike the flu vaccine, a weakened strain of COVID-19 will not be used in the vaccine, but a modified cold virus that creates the SARS-CoV-2 protein, according to the University of Michigan Health Lab.

administration is pushing for herd immunity to combat the virus without the vaccine, with Trump stating in a Fox interview with Maria Bartiromo, "Remember, when you catch it, you get better, and you're immune."

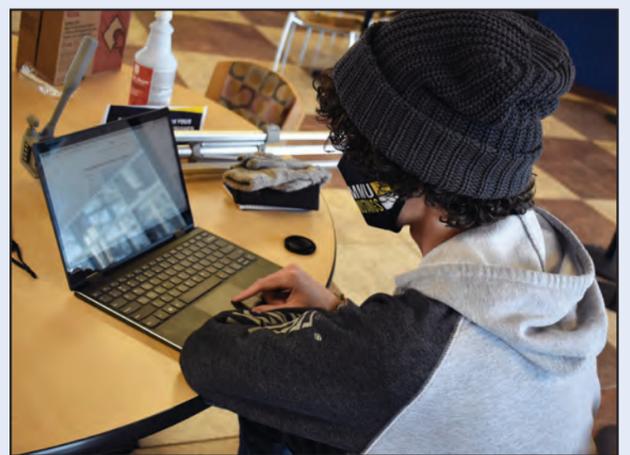
"In order to get good herd immunity, we need to have 90 percent of the population to come in-contact with COVID or have gotten the vaccine" Jolly said.

Currently, 240,000 Americans have lost their lives to the virus and only 10 percent of the population have immunity right now. To expect 90 percent immunity without

a vaccine, the death toll would be "unconscionable," Jolly said. "The problem is with the misconceptions and politicization; I am worried that we will not get that 90 percent," she stated.

Jolly encourages that when a vaccine does get approved, you should listen to the professionals and trusted sources, like the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

"Your doctors and nurses can also be trusted," Jolly said. "It seems so many people are ignoring what physicians and nurses are saying pertaining to this pandemic. So, I would like to reestablish that trust."



Donovan Grubaugh/Times

PJ Murray, an undecided sophomore, completes the forms to receive a COVID-19 test. The Times received his permission to take his picture.

Random Tests Began Nov. 2 Students, Faculty, Staff Asked to Participate

By Donovan Grubaugh
Staff Writer

With COVID-19 still a huge part of our daily lives, the university knew that it had to take steps to ensure students on campus were going to stay safe. Nate Klein, vice president for student success, has been the head of the university's Pandemic Task Force which meets weekly to discuss how to better stay ahead of the coronavirus.

On Oct. 29, an email was sent to the Mount Mercy community saying that voluntary randomized testing would begin the

week of Nov. 2, where 2 percent of the student and employee population will be selected on a weekly basis.

Klein explained that the Task Force talked about doing this at the start of the school year

but said, "We didn't do it at first because it was a resource issue. There weren't enough tests, and they were also expensive. Now it's become much more cost effective."

Every Monday, Mount Mercy students and staff who have

There weren't enough tests, and they were also expensive. Now it's become much more cost effective.

Nate Klein, vice president for student success

◆ **Test Iowa System**
continued on page 2

Heads up:

Grocery Bingo

M2AP Board will host a virtual grocery bingo event on Nov. 5 from 6-8 p.m. Join in for the chance to win some great prizes!

Comedian Comes to Campus

Comedian Reem Edan will visit MMU's McAuley Theater on Nov. 7 from 7-8 p.m., and her appearance is sponsored by M2AP Board.

Due to COVID-19, the number of audience members will be limited, but the event will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person.

Business & Leadership Showcase

On Nov. 11 from noon to 2 p.m., MBA professor Todd Hutcherson will give a virtual presentation to help students optimize their business skills. The event will also give attendees a taste of what business and leadership classes look like at MMU.

Cookies & Canvas

M2AP Board will host an event on Nov. 13 from 6-8 p.m. in the Lundy classrooms that will give students the chance to do some painting and eat some complimentary cookies.

Build-A-Critter

M2AP Board's popular Build-A-Critter event will take place on Nov. 17 from 8-10 p.m. in Flaherty Community Room of Basile Hall. Students can take their Build-A-Critter kits to-go to keep up with social distancing measures.



CDC image/CDC.gov

Patients' samples to be tested for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) serologic test.