

Faculty and staff,

Thanks to extraordinary work across campus, Longwood is on track by the end of Friday to have administered more than 650 vaccination doses to faculty, staff, and essential frontline members of our campus community with Aramark and Budd Group, along with a small handful of students such as nurses who work in priority groups under state guidelines. This significantly increases the number of vaccinated adults in Prince Edward County, and provides a model for continued work with the Virginia Department of Health to serve our community. We hope to take these next steps within the next few days.

These efforts are underway because VDH has recognized Longwood is one of the few entities in the region that can handle the complex refrigeration challenges, scheduling, spacing and administering of shots, thanks to our nursing program. Because of that, we were asked and authorized to roll out our system by administering vaccinations to as many employees as quickly as possible.

Even as our clinic continues this week, we are working quickly to implement planned next steps to serve the community. In short, we have put ourselves at the service of VDH to direct us how Longwood's resources, expertise, facilities and people can be most helpfully deployed in support of the overall community effort they are leading.

Shortly, we expect VDH to assign Longwood certain priority groups of local essential workers to help vaccinate. This also supports the overall effort by freeing up other capacity and resources in the community from VDH, Central other providers for broader groups, such as those over 65. We hope that as soon as next week we will be helping vaccinate groups such as First Responders and other essential personnel under state guidelines. In the days and weeks ahead, you may see various community partners take on different roles in this effort, but each part is important to the whole.

At the proper time, there will be an occasion to properly thank the many people across the University who are making this effort possible, on an extraordinarily fast timeline. Until then, particular thanks are due to 1) Russ Carmichael and his colleagues in Facilities who have managed the complex refrigeration issues that are one of the most complicated challenges of vaccine administration, 2) Lisa Mooney and her tireless team in HR and, of course, 3) Kim Little, her fellow nursing faculty and many students, without whose expertise and tireless effort this effort would not be possible. If you see them on campus, please tell them thanks.

Thanks,

Matthew McWilliams
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