

The Centurion



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Bucks to Offer COVID-19 Vaccinations

LUCAS DARLING

Centurion Staff

Bucks County Commissioners have approved a \$14 million contract with AMI Expeditionary Healthcare to provide vaccinations at all three Bucks campuses.

It is currently unknown when the campuses will be available to administer vaccines, however, as the Bucks County Health Department has only received less than 10 percent of all vaccinations sent by the state. The Commissioners have urged for patience through the process.

“None of us like this because it sounds like we’re kicking the can down the lane or passing the buck, but we really don’t control any of this, this is the worst pandemic in a hundred years, and the largest vaccination program in human history. Period,” said Commissioner Vice Chair Bob Harvie.

“We would be vaccinating everybody right now; we are ready to go. We have the staff. We have AMI. The issue is we do not have the vaccine,” said Commissioner Chair Diane Ellis-Marseglia.

An estimated 28,000 people in Bucks County have received partial vaccinations, with about only

9,000 people receiving a full dose.

Audrey Kenny, Interim Director of Emergency Services, believes that once they are given an ample supply of the vaccine, they will be able to vaccinate up to 500 people a day, five days a week at the campus sites, with an additional 300 people a day through mobile vaccination teams.

The county anticipates receiving a larger number of vaccines in the next shipment from the state, but the number of vaccines the state receives is dependent on the federal government.

Pre-registration for vaccination is available now through the Bucks County COVID-19 Vaccine Information Portal, and numbers for pre-registration are approaching 200,000 people.

The county is confident that as soon as the state provides more vaccine doses, it will be ready to administer as quickly as they can.

“We are just waiting on the state, and the state is waiting on the federal government, as soon as that happens, whether that’s this week, next week, two weeks from now, we’re ready to go. And we’re going to move as quickly as possible,” said Commissioner Gene DiGirolamo.

The Upper Bucks Campus is the only campus still administering



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

COVID-19 tests. Testing is done from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Results will be returned within 48-72 hours.

A prescription is not needed to get a test done, but the college recommends that one tracks the symptoms they have before getting tested, as only 350 tests can be administered per day. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are dry cough, fever, fatigue, and less common symptoms include

loss of taste or smell, body aches, headache, sore throat, nasal congestion, diarrhea or skin rash.

The Upper Bucks Campus is located at 1 Hillendale Road, Perkasi, PA, also at the entrance of Blooming Glen Road.

The county’s seven-day average of new infections dropped to 285 as of Feb. 2. The total infection rate in Bucks County is 40,698 positive test results, with 1,042 total deaths.

State Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine said PA testing has passed the national average, “We want Pennsylvanians to know that if they need a test, one is available, as COVID-19 remains a threat in our communities, we need to take precautions to keep ourselves safe by monitoring ourselves for COVID-19 symptoms, finding a test site near us if we have symptoms, and staying home if we are sick.”

Bucks to Launch New Dance Major this Fall



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

ANGELA LEAMON

Centurion Staff

Adding to its long and diverse list of offered programs, Bucks will debut its dance major program in the Fall 2021 semester.

The new dance studies professor, Tia DiPietro, was more than happy to sit down and talk about what the new program has to offer, as well as her educational and professional backstory.

DiPietro has been involved with dance since the age of three and has done both competitive and recreational dancing. She went on

to get her bachelor’s degree for dance at DeSales University.

DiPietro did dance auditions and performances, and performed in one of “Weird Al” Yankovic’s concerts. After that, she went on to get a master’s degree in fine arts at Temple University.

She reached out to Bucks’ Dean of Kinesiology asking if they needed a professor for dance courses. From there, the school to be able to make the dance major program.

The dance major itself prepares undergraduate students to transfer to a four-year institution to con-

tinue their dance education.

Possible professions outside of dance that can be pursued with a dance major include performance, teaching practices, journalism, children’s outreach programs in the arts, movement therapy, fitness instruction and art administration (studio ownership).

“I would love to have summer and winter classes for students who are unsure of what the program is or what the classes would be like,” said DiPietro.

Students can take dance courses without being a dance major, which will give students the op-

portunity to try different courses.

For students that are dance majors, they will be enrolled in technique courses of various levels of modern and classical ballet. Within these courses, students will be exposed to the theory behind each technical movement.

Aside from the technique side of dance, students will take a variety of theory courses such as dance history, dance composition and the development of choreography, and a freshman seminar which will outline a clear career path in the field of dance.

“Dance is one of the biggest

parts of my life... it’s so special because it’s a way of release, it’s a way of relaxation, and it’s a way to be creative. Most importantly, it’s my own expression and a way to be creative and I enjoy giving that to other people,” said DiPietro.

Come try the classes and don’t be intimidated, the classes are designed for both beginners and students who have danced before.

Tia can be reached at Tia.DiPietro@bucks.edu for further questions or explanation on the coursework or the course itself.

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How Bucks County Residents Are Feeling About the COVID-19 Vaccine



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

ANDREW COATES
Centurion Staff

As COVID-19 continues to ravage, President Joe Biden has announced plans for an aggressive national vaccination program that will speed up the process of getting citizens vaccinated, yet not all Bucks County residents are keen on rolling up their sleeves.

In a press briefing on Feb. 1, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said the new administration is working closely with governors to assure expedient distribution for those most in need. “We are

developing different plans for proper distribution,” Psaki said.

The Biden Administration plans to increase supplies to all states by 16 percent over the next three weeks. Biden has repeatedly proclaimed in his speeches that his goal is to have 100 million doses available in his first 100 days in office.

Bobby Braun, a senior at Harry S. Truman High School in Bristol Township, is suspicious of receiving the shot.

“I’m concerned about how quickly it was developed and approved,” Braun said. “The vaccine is none like any other, it’s a mRNA vaccine that attaches itself to DNA, it’s too much of a risk.”

There are approximately 27,232,025 Coronavirus cases in the U.S., with a reported 464,208 deaths. About 30 million Americans have been inoculated.

The CDC and other scientists have been studying herd immunity, but it is still unclear what percentage of people need to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity where if enough people are inoculated, it becomes difficult for the virus to continue to spread.

Still, there are some Bucks residents that are in favor of receiving the vaccine when available to them, while some have already acquired the shot.

Bucks resident and social work major at West Chester University, Victoria Rodway, plans on getting vaccinated. “I wouldn’t be surprised if there are side effects. Not too worried, I am accepting the risk,” Rodway said.

Ian Baldwin of Newtown has received his first dose of Pfizer’s version of the vaccine.

“I had no worries. I wanted the vaccine because I’m afraid of COVID-19 and have lung scarring,” Baldwin said. “It was very safe. Aside from arm soreness about a week, I had no side effects. It was a great experience and I look forward to my second shot.”

Professor Queeney Talks “Fake News” and How to Best Avoid It



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

GABRIELLA PIRMAN
Centurion Staff

“Fake news” and the wild spread of misinformation have become one of the biggest problems in recent history that Americans face on a daily basis.

The terms “fake news” and “misinformation” have become widely recognized throughout

Donald Trump’s presidential campaign and eventual presidency. To grasp what exactly fake news is and how to avoid consuming it, communications professor Shawn Queeney recently offered his thoughts on both.

According to Queeney, “Fake news is really this suspicion of legitimacy, it’s meant to give this idea that journalistic practices... that all of that lacks legitimacy.”

Essentially, fake news is less an object and more the calling into question of objective factfinding, reporting verification, the editing process, and confirmation of sources.

Misinformation tends to be a simple mistake in writing that can

be later called out and corrected where the reporting source takes accountability, whereas fake news generally calls all of journalism into question.

“We’re all prone to make mistakes, it’s an imperfect process,” said Queeney. “But the whole fake news idea, it’s just to call into question the legitimacy of it

without presenting clear evidence. I always like that section of the newspaper, where they say, ‘Oh here’s a correction from a story we made yesterday.’”

Queeney offered tips to ensure that we’re not only reading from reliable news sources, but also being responsible in how we consume news.

“I think transparency is a big deal, and it goes back to this idea of information literacy that we teach at Bucks. Is there a clearly identified author? Is it clear where they got their information from?”

Often times, it does come down on the reader to look into the news sources that they trust. Confirming that they’re identifying their sources and looking into the subject further beyond the article at hand are only a couple ways of making sure that we’re consuming trustworthy information.

“In many ways, that’s the upside to the internet - having access to that, and being able to conduct research on our own. When we’re using the internet that way, we start to generate better thinking.”

Another common occurrence is when readers discredit a source because of bias. While this is a good practice in theory, it tends to debunk large name sources such as CNN and Fox News. As long as a reader is able to sufficiently question their source and recognize that bias, big name sources like that tend to be safe to stick to.

Queeney also named The Economist, The New York Times, and local papers as sources that tend to be trustworthy.

“Don’t get too caught up in the bias, basic critical thinking skills, how transparent is this, can I verify this information... at some level, we have to trust our own judgement as to whether something is factual,” suggested Queeney.

Politics

What the Biden Administration Could Mean for Student Loans

JOHN MADDEN

Centurion Staff

After a chaotic election, Joe Biden has taken office as the 46th president. Shortly after being sworn in, he signed 15 executive orders, undoing many of President Trump's policies. With Biden being quick to spring in action, what does this mean for college students?

Biden previously supported and proposed programs throughout his campaign that would allow the forgiveness of student loan debt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal government currently lends \$1.4 trillion dollars through the education department to over 42 million borrowers.

Because of COVID-19, there has been a pause on the monthly payments of more than 22 million borrowers for federal student loans. This pause waived interest along with payments through the end of 2020, and the question remains that will such relief will be addressed in 2021. President Trump had previously extended the previous deadline from Sept. 30 through Dec. 31.

About two weeks after the election, Biden, at a press conference, was once again asked about student loan forgiveness being part of his plan in upcoming administration, and whether or not

executive action could take place in order to do so. Biden responded, "It does figure into my plan, it should happen immediately."

Inauguration Day has come and gone, and the president has since passed a series of executive orders, ranging from masks mandates to rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement, however, student loan forgiveness has yet to be addressed.

It is still very much on the table as Biden does have strong support in Congress, including Senators Chuck Schumer and Elizabeth Warren, both have called for the forgiveness of up to \$50,000 per borrower due to the impact of the pandemic.

While Biden has never publicly supported this figure, he has stated on his Twitter that a minimum of \$10,000 per borrower is very reasonable. One of his previous Tweets, that is keeping students hopeful, dating back to March 2020, said, "No bill should pass without immediate, generous relief for workers who are losing jobs and hours, small businesses losing revenue, and communities facing emergency needs."

There are roughly 8.5 million students utilizing monthly payment plans to help offset struggling with debt, in which their payments are directly linked



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

to how much they earn. This has the potential to leave students vulnerable who don't have both the earnings or savings to afford such payments.

Another generous plan that has been proposed by Biden is in which individuals that are earning less than \$25,000 out of college are not required to make payments on their loans, and are also

exempt of interest.

Overwhelmingly, there are a majority of Americans who are in favor of some form of student loan debit removal/forgiveness. A poll from Vox and Data For Progress shows that over half of those who voted are in favor of cancelling \$50,000 in debt for each borrower.

An executive order would allow

President Biden to take immediate action and provide instant relief to students who have been affected through COVID-19. However, such action may be taken through legislation instead, in order to provide a more permanent solution.

A Look into the Biden Administration



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

WILL SUPPER

Centurion Staff

2020 was a year for all of us to remember as one of the worst of our generation. A world filled with sickness, corruption, and conflict across the world.

This conflict, followed by the 2020 Presidential Election, resulted in Joseph R. Biden becoming the United States' 46th president.

So, what are President Biden's plans? The Biden Administration is working on helping America surpass the COVID-19 Pandemic by distributing the vaccine throughout the country as well as helping citizens who lost their jobs during the pandemic get back on their feet.

Biden plans to create a new era

of energy throughout America by working on changing the country into a clean-energy state. His plan is to help create thousands of new jobs and ways of travel, as well as lower our countries use of fossil fuels.

The Biden Administration also states that they will focus on creating equity in the areas that have been affected by pollution the most such as low-income housing, as well as Black and Latino neighborhoods and Native communities.

So, what has the Biden Administration already done? Since Biden has entered office, he has signed 17 executive orders. Some of the orders include considering climate change and climate issues

as an essential part of U.S. foreign policy.

Biden also has signed a memo condemning discrimination against Asians and Pacific Islanders as well as another memo to contribute the U.S. government to create better relationships with the Indigenous tribes of America.

These are only some of the orders Biden has made since he has gotten into office two weeks ago. Biden has a lot more on his plate these next few years to reach his goals.

So, what is the people's opinion on the new Biden administration so far?

"Biden is a much-needed change to bring back professional and logical behavior to the pres-

idency," said Trent Mokes from Sellersville.

"While I do like a fresh Democratic administration, I feel like we are in a limbo with career Democrats and progressive Democrats leading our country," states Ryan Poust from Perkasic. "A Democratic administration is great and a lot of what they're planning on doing is really ambitious, but I am worried there will be a lack of action in the coming months."

Ryan Woodman from Quakertown said, "Compared to the Trump Administration, I think it's a huge leap forward. I think they are handling Coronavirus very well so far and rejoining international agreements. I do have some

concerns. I would like them to stay out of the Middle East and take serious action in the criminal justice system."

It seems as though many citizens are pleased with Biden's actions so far, but some supporters are still skeptical of whether or not Biden will follow through with his plans. Many want to see action in the criminal justice system and a push for the spread of equality throughout America.

Will Biden be able to reach his goals of what he wants for America? Will the president be able to create the new green economy and create thousands of new jobs? Only time will tell how this Administration will change America.

Politics

Young Voters and Their Importance in the 2020 Election

LUCAS DARLING
Centurion Staff

The 2020 presidential election was one of the most important elections in American history, and young voters helped sway the vote in Joe Biden’s favor.

According to New York Times’ exit polls, 60 percent of voters between the ages of 18 and 29 voted for Joe Biden, while only 36 percent voted for Donald Trump.

Alicia Lazar, a political science professor at Bucks, thinks that the circumstances surrounding this election may have influenced this major unbalance in young votes. “It’s an election unlike anything I’ve ever seen.”

While young people were more likely to vote Democrat in this election, the circumstances surrounding it may have influenced young voters to vote for Biden when they would have voted for Trump under different circumstances. The COVID-19 pandemic and Trump’s first impeachment might have been enough to push some young voters away from voting for Trump.

Lazar said that the best way for a political party to gain support among young voters is to address issues that specifically concern young people.

“Politicians must target the issues that are near and dear to that age group, figuring out what the issues are and speaking directly to the college loans or free college, tax cuts are not a young adult specific topic, being drafted to a war you don’t support would be important to young voters,” said Lazar.



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Young people are the least likely to go out and vote in elections, with only 17 percent of voters in the 2020 election were between the ages of 18 and 29. Young people are often not as active in politics as much of the political process does not affect them, such as topics like property tax or social security.

As younger voters grow up, they begin to pay more attention to politics, or as Lazar puts it, “As soon as they become adults, they have to pay attention to the adult world.”

Even though they will have to begin paying attention, Lazar believes that young voters will continue to push issues that are important to them, most notably, starting a larger discussion regarding the LGBTQ community.

This election was more heavily influenced by young voters and will continue to influence American politics for years to come. Lazar thinks that the American political process will become more scrutinized after this election cycle, with campaigns, debates, the election itself and the results being looked at closer than any other election in American history.

College age people will continue

to be a major factor in upcoming elections, especially as the pandemic progresses and Biden begins his presidency. As they get older and begin focusing on more parts of the political process, they will fit right into the greater process, and a new, younger generation will take their place as young voters.



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Politics

How Conspiracy Theories Led to an Insurrection

EMME OLIVER

Centurion Staff

On Jan. 6, The United States Capitol, a historical place for Americans and a place of business for the government, looked like a war zone.

Protestors showed up from across the country, encouraged by President Donald Trump who told the fiery crowd to storm the Capitol to protest the outcome of the 2020 election.

Due to the use of mail-in balloting and an extension of vote counting, Trump and his loyal supporters questioned the validity of the election results which did not end in their favor.

In the midst of the electoral college affirming Joe Biden's win, they were asked to evacuate as the crowd swarmed and ultimately breached the U.S. capitol. While most can agree this was a dark day in America's history, many different perspectives have been formulated as a result from this event.

"What I don't understand is why didn't the mayor of D.C. put more cops in place," said Brendan, 50. A Trump supporter himself, Brendan doesn't agree with the election results and subsequently detests the idea that "all Trump supporters" behave that way.

"I don't like that they say 'Trump supporters' [the riot-



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

ers] are right wing fascists and racists, the people that peacefully marched were there because we don't agree with the rules changed for the election."

There was no evidence of any significant election fraud. But many Trump supporters were angered about the use of absentee and mail-in balloting

Absentee ballots have been used in times of need before. According to an article from Time, "During the 1864 presidential election... Union soldiers voted in camps and field hospitals, under

the supervision of clerks or state officials."

Speculation of "discarded" or "unsupervised" ballots have been reported but further investigation by government officials has concluded that this did not directly inspire election fraud.

Multiple news sources have labeled the events at the Capitol as "domestic terrorism." Many Americans, liberal and conservative alike, wholeheartedly agree with this statement.

"The Capitol riot on January 6th was nothing less than domes-

tic terrorism," says Emma, 18.

"Our country has fought against fascism since we were founded. To storm a federal building with weapons and intent to incite fear is terrorism and the fact that Former President Trump condoned this coup is even more appalling."

President Trump is facing a second impeachment trial on accounts of incitement to insurrection. His speech he gave before the Capitol riot began has been the talking point for many liberal news sources, saying his words evoked the crowd.

Trump did say at the 18-minute mark of his speech that it was his wish for the crowd to "peacefully and patriotically make our voices heard." Perhaps the crowd took more to Rudy Giuliani's proclamation of "let's have a trial by combat."

Trump's impeachment trial is likely to be another convoluted process. With the Senate needing 17 Republicans to convict, it's unlikely that Trump will face permanent removal from being able to run again, which he has announced that he will in 2024.






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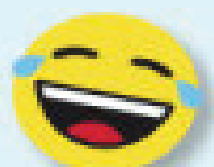
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Sports

Are We Still Trusting “The Process”?

DAVID SCOTT

Centurion Staff

The Philadelphia 76ers are off to a white hot start this season, soaring to the top of the Eastern Conference throughout their first 21 games.

They are 2.5 games ahead of both the Milwaukee Bucks in second, and the Brooklyn Nets in third. These teams are heavily favored by most NBA “analysts” to make it out of the east over the 76ers.

With the newly formed “super team” in Brooklyn and the Greek Freak Giannis Antetokounmpo putting up freakish numbers, it’s going to be hard to see Philadelphia make it to the finals this year.

So, let’s talk about why they are where they are right now, the top. Joel Hans Embiid, the Process, the MVP? Probably not, but Jojo is shooting a career high 40 percent from behind the three-point line. This is on about three attempts per game.

This shooting streak has been one of many factors that have helped to unlock his elite post play as of late. Let’s not forget, last year around this time Joel was getting his name thrown around in the MVP conversation, could this be his year?

Again, probably not. As much as we all want a dominant Hakeem-esque Embiid, his injuries always seem to cool him off. The real question that should be asked is how much longer until Jojo



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

lands wrong and we’re “processing” again.

But, if for some reason the stars align in a way akin to Moses parting the red sea and we see a healthy Joel all year, there is something to say for this Sixers team.

Daryl Morey, winner of NBA Executive of the year in 2018, taking over as president of basketball operations this year has been one of the best things to happen to

this team in recent memory. The firing of Bret Brown, and more importantly the hiring of Doc Rivers, have helped breathe some sense of life into ballclub. Along with the pickup of Seth Curry, who as of right now is shooting better (50 percent) from behind the arc than his more famous brother.

So, what is the ceiling of this team when healthy according to the local fans?

Riley Wegner, 18, said, “The ceiling is definitely the conference finals, Embiid and Simmons can’t beat Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving, and James Harden. Two of these guys are former MVPs.”

However, New Jersey basketball phenom, Kyle Ratner, 18, thinks different. “I think the ceiling for the Sixers this year is a championship, they are definitely built for the post season now, with strong three-point shooting, along

with great perimeter defense to slow down some of the great shooting teams that are in the league.”

What can we expect from the Sixers this season? It really is too early to tell, but If Joel can stay healthy the NBA finals might not be as out of the question as some may think.

Eagles Hire New Head Coach



Nick Sirianni, Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

MICHAEL TARAPCHAK

Centurion Staff

With the recent firing of former Eagles head coach Doug Pederson, it didn’t take them too long to find their head coaching replacement. On Jan. 24, the Eagles announced that they found their guy, Nick Sirianni, age 39, who was formerly with the Colts as offensive coordinator.

When word came out that the Eagles hired Sirianni, longtime Eagles fan Rishi Patel was all for it.

“Nick Sirianni is a guy that can put this team back on track,” said Patel, 20, who studies at Penn

State.

The hiring of Sirianni came as a surprise to many fans and media outlets, as it seemed Josh McDaniels was running away with the job title. Reports came flying out that McDaniels had a nine-hour meeting with the Eagles and the owner discussing philosophy and plans if he were to be chosen as the next head coach.

Those reports were proven false as Sirianni was the one who came out on top for the job. Sirianni recently had a press conference to be inducted as the head coach in which he was getting placed on

blast by media outlets for looking nervous and stuttering with his words. This wasn’t a good look, especially if you’re going to lead a locker room.

Fortunately for Sirianni, many of his former players on the Indianapolis Colts, including Darius Leonard, came out and said the ridicule on Sirianni after his press conference was completely unjust.

“Sirianni is going to be great for the Eagles, I was really hoping the Eagles would sign McDaniels so we can keep Sirianni for at least another year,” said Colts fan Cole Tarapchak. It seems like Sirian-

ni has big praise with the Colts athletes and their fans.

With Sirianni as their new head coach, the first step is deciding who is going to be the quarterback for the new year. We likely won’t know until the new season kicks off, but Sirianni is in a unique situation where he has two quarterbacks who both have a great chance to win the starting job.

As Sirianni begins his career as a head coach, he’s going to need to install a winning culture in the Philadelphia Eagles organization. This means setting up the roster

with a bunch of guys who want to be there, and putting yourself in the best position to win. All of which is very capable of happening in their division which came off to be the worst statistical division this year.

As the off-season rolls around, look for the Eagles to get younger, don’t expect a playoff run in the first year of Sirianni’s campaign. But what you look forward to is early draft picks and a bright future.