



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Dear Friends,

It is in times of challenge that our commitments and principles are most put to the test. The global coronavirus pandemic has certainly been an unprecedented challenge for our university to face. I am confident that we will arrive on the other side of this situation as a stronger and even more resilient university body. My confidence doesn't simply come from a sense of belief. It comes from the very real and very inspiring work of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and community supporters.

Upon returning from their Spring Break, our students demonstrated the Cardinal Principle of Agility by adapting to the sudden change of all classes being moved online. Additionally, the Spring Commencement ceremony had to be postponed. These major disruptions were difficult and painful, yet they pivoted quickly and they are making courageous efforts to support each other, as well others in the surrounding community, during this time.

Our faculty and staff exercised the Cardinal Principle of Leadership by boldly moving into the current reality of remote teaching and working that they had very little time to train for. Many of our faculty and staff carry the added responsibility of taking care of children and family members in their homes while remaining committed remotely to their instructional and operational duties. Our staff members who remain on campus for essential duties bravely work to ensure campus services are still running for students who have nowhere else to go. This is an incredible undertaking.

Our health workers and researchers demonstrate our Noble Purpose principle by making a tremendous difference during this pandemic. They sacrifice time with their families and loved ones in order to work around the clock to better understand the transmission of COVID-19 and how the novel coronavirus is spread. They have been resourceful, innovative and have stepped up to our nation, state and city's call for help.

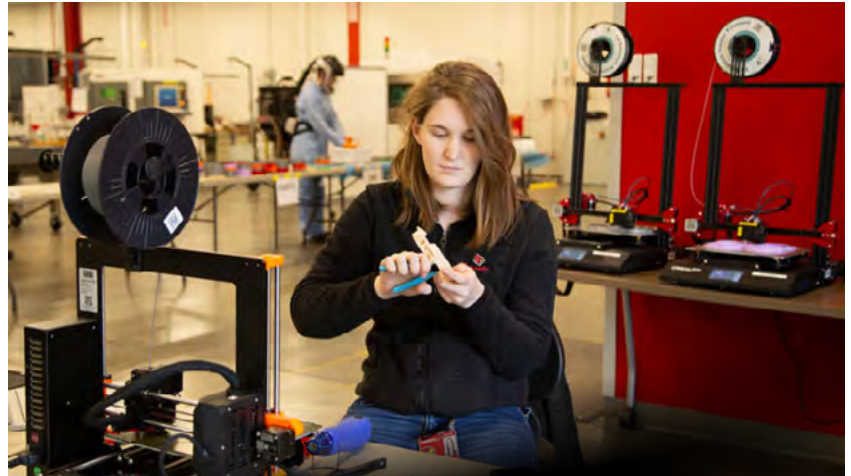
Our alumni and the community at large demonstrate our Cardinal Principle of being a Community of Care by donating to emergency response funds for students and staff experiencing hardship, along with research and equipment funds that will help advance our fight against COVID-19. If you would like to join me and others in making a donation, whether big or small, read the Community of Care section for more information.

Despite the significant disruptions that this global pandemic has brought into the life of our university, I am deeply humbled by the level of commitment our entire university community has shown to ensure that the University of Louisville remains a great place to learn, work and invest.

In this time of uncertainty, there is still much that we do not know. Yet, I do know this. We are strong. We are resilient. We have risen above challenges in the past and we will do it again. Together, we are UofL.

Go Cards!

Neeli Bendapudi
President, University of Louisville



Call to action: Students print face shields

A team from the Speed School of Engineering applied their training and technology to help combat the current shortage of protective equipment for health care workers.

The Additive Manufacturing Institute of Science and Technology (AMIST) facility's group used state-of-the-art 3D printing technology to make face shields, items critically needed because of the tightening of hospital supply chain lines.

Ed Tackett, AMIST's workforce development director, coordinates the COVID-19 Speed School Response Team.

"We asked ourselves, 'What can we do right now? How do we protect our most vulnerable citizens and how can the university play a positive role in making that happen?'" Tackett said. "We have medical professionals literally on the front lines, and if we can help them be safer or keep them from getting sick, we're going

to do whatever we need to do to make that happen."

Graduate assistant Kate Schneidau and four other students made up the team. The first 100-shield batch was picked up in March and, while that production helps fill the gap, the center can nimbly adapt to other 3D printing needs that arise.

"We are here as a tool to help in whatever way the medical community may need," Schneidau said. "We could shift production to ventilators if that is what is needed next."

This experience reinforced Schneidau's desire for a career in building medical devices. And she is reassured by her peers' devoted response.

"The fact that these students have these skills and are willing to step up to the plate to help, this has just reaffirmed my belief that the next generation - we got it covered," she said. "The future is in good hands."

COMMUNITY OF CARE

In effort to support all the different members of our university community impacted by the global pandemic, UofL has several funds in place to help.

Due to many university-employed students becoming unemployed or having their work hours significantly reduced, we know that there are students struggling to pay for basic needs such as rent, utilities, groceries or moving home. Students are able to apply for assistance through the [Student Emergency Fund](#).

Similarly, university staff members who may also be experiencing unexpected financial hardships can apply for assistance through the [Staff Help Assistance Relief Effort \(SHARE\)](#) Program.

There are also funds to support our university's

COVID-19 response efforts. The [COVID-19 Research Fund](#) helps advance our researchers' efforts to understand the virus and to increase much-needed testing in our community. The UofL Health [Personal Protective Equipment Fund](#) is for UofL Health staff to purchase necessary PPE items as they anticipate shortages. Similarly, the [Speed School AMIST Lab COVID-19 Projects Fund](#) helps our engineering instructors and students purchase materials and use their skills to build PPE items.

You can make a donation to any of these important causes by visiting our Office of University Advancement webpage, give.louisville.edu.

UofL's response to coronavirus outbreak

The university's early response to the coronavirus began in January when leadership first alerted all members of the Cardinal community about the initial outbreak in central China. Shortly after, a dedicated COVID-19 Planning Committee was formed to ensure the situation was closely monitored.

As things began to progress, the university frequently updated students, faculty and staff. Nearly 40 different updates and announcements were communicated over the course of two months in order to keep the university community informed of new



information and policy changes.

The university took a phased approach in these changes to ensure appropriate precautions were taken and to act in step with the recommendations from leading health experts and local and state government leaders.

The first phase involved cautioning students who were planning Spring Break trips to be aware of the risk levels certain states and countries were reporting. Additionally, all university members were strongly recommended to increase their efforts in proper hand washing and to closely follow other CDC health guidelines.

The next phase was initiated by early March which moved all students to remote instruction upon their return from Spring Break in effort to mitigate a potential community spread of the coronavirus. Faculty were equipped with a series of

trainings, led by UofL's Delphi Center for Teaching and Learning, in order to quickly transition their coursework online. Additionally, all university-sponsored events and travel were suspended and anyone returning from a CDC-identified country were required to report their travel through an online form and to immediately self-quarantine for 14 days before returning to campus.

By mid-March, the third and current phase of response began by extending remote instruction through the end of the semester (April 28), along with all eligible employees being strongly recommended to work from home for the same timeframe. Only those faculty and staff with essential on-campus duties remain on campus. By late March, all students were asked to move out of campus residence halls. For students whose only home is campus housing, UofL offered exemptions

and ensured they could continue living on campus with grab-and-go dining options and other limited services through the remainder of the semester.

All large events were cancelled, including all athletic games, and the Spring Commencement ceremony was postponed. The university will wait to hold a separate ceremony for spring graduates as part of the 2020 Winter Commencement.

"We know this is a tremendous disappointment to our graduates and their families. And we share that disappointment as well. Nonetheless we hope you understand the complexities we face now," President Bendapudi said.

The date for spring degree conferral remains May 9, and students approved to graduate this spring will still be awarded their degrees and certificates on that date.

RESEARCHERS ADDRESS URGENT NEED FOR COVID-19 KNOWLEDGE

To control COVID-19 cases and contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus, more knowledge is needed about how the virus spreads, who becomes ill and how the illness progresses. UofL is already at work to answer these urgent questions to reduce the global pandemic's impact.

Infectious disease researchers are working with all 10 Louisville hospitals and two in southern Indiana, including UofL Health, Norton and Baptist, to process tests and study the illness to gather information needed to prevent transmission.

Julio Ramirez, chief, and Ruth Carrico, professor, in the Division of Infectious Diseases have developed a surveillance program to track the illness's prevalence and which patients are most affected. The group is uniquely qualified for this research as pharmaceutical company Pfizer recently selected the division as its first Global Center of Excellence.

"I think the big issue is understanding the emergence of this illness and the pandemic response in terms of where the cases are, how many cases we're seeing and among what types of patients," Carrico said. "This study will help us better understand risk factors and how we need to approach it from a preventive perspective."

Because this virus is so new, health professionals do not have as much information about how the disease presents initially and how it progresses as they do about other diseases studied for decades. They also still need to understand better how SARS-CoV-2 spreads.

"With the information we are gathering, we will better understand how transmission occurs. When we understand how transmission occurs, that provides us the tools we need to develop some effective interventions," Carrico said.

Over time, the surveillance project not only will reveal the pandemic's current scope in Louisville and beyond but also will monitor it over weeks and months, allowing researchers to predict the virus's impact.



USING KENTUCKY'S RESOURCES TO COMBAT GLOBAL PANDEMIC THROUGH UOFL'S BIOCONTAINMENT LAB

A decade ago, when the National Institutes of Health needed to place a high-security biocontainment laboratory in Kentucky, capable of safely studying dangerous and emerging infectious diseases, they turned to the University of Louisville.

Today, UofL's *Regional Biocontainment Laboratory* (RBL) is being called upon in research efforts focusing on the novel coronavirus. Researchers are exploring compounds that hold promise as therapeutic agents against the disease and could be grown quickly in tobacco plants.

The RBL is housed in UofL's Center for Predictive Medicine for Biodefense and Emerging Diseases CPM and is part of a network of 12 regional and two national labs that were established with support from the NIH to conduct research with infectious agents.

Kenneth Palmer, director of the CPM, and his research team received samples of SARS-CoV-2 in February last month and are researching it only in the highly secure confines of the RBL. The researchers now are testing the therapeutic candidates against the disease in cell cultures,

and also testing potential vaccines from research partners across the nation.

That's where the tobacco plants come in. A large amount of the ultimate therapeutic will be needed for human trials, and Kentucky's historical cash crop is a perfect host to produce the quantities needed.

Some of the compounds are already showing promise in the laboratory. While the end of the year seems far off in the current coronavirus climate, it is realistic because "SARS-CoV-2 may be with us for a couple of winter seasons. We'd like to have a product that could be tested if the infection comes back in the cold season like influenza does," Palmer said.

If it does, Palmer and his team will be ready. "We think we will be able to deliver the drug as a nasal spray and hope we can use it as a preventive, pre-exposure treatment before a vaccine could be developed. This will be important for the public and especially for those who are at risk because of their age or pre-existing health conditions or because they work in health care."