

Dear students,

Welcome to UofL! We're happy to see so many students back on campus for the first time in months. For those of you taking classes remotely, we are happy to have you join us for what promises to be an unprecedented, but exciting, fall semester.

The first week of classes can be tricky and even overwhelming during a regular year; our current COVID-related environment may make it seem even more daunting. I hope the following information, provided in response to some of the most frequently asked questions from students, will answer some of your key COVID-related questions and help make your entry to the fall semester successful.

About your first week of class: Make sure you check your university emails regularly and consult Blackboard; if you haven't heard from all your faculty by now about how your classes are being delivered the first week, you should email each instructor who hasn't communicated these details to ask where you should go on the first day. Remember—a strong start is important for your success this semester.

About masks, physical distancing, and hand hygiene:

Masks protect all of us, and combined with physical distancing, regular handwashing and the use of hand sanitizers, masks will help to keep us all safe. It's a requirement that you wear masks in public indoor spaces, particularly classrooms, libraries, the SAC, the SRC, and as you enter all academic and office buildings. One free mask per student will be distributed the first week of classes. Distribution details are available at [this site](#). Student advocates – we're calling them MASKots – will walk the campus, sharing information and masks with students. You'll recognize them by their green vests.

When you are entering buildings, make sure to follow any floor markings, entrance and exit signs, and to keep six feet of distance between yourself and others. If possible, use the steps instead of elevators to assist students, faculty and staff with mobility issues in maintaining appropriate distancing.

About testing: If you haven't gotten your free COVID 19 test, you have until Aug. 21 to do so. Unlike some schools, we are not mandating testing, but it's important that everyone gets a test so that we know the baseline rate of infection in the Cardinal community. We have several testing sites on the Belknap and HSC campuses, so the process should be convenient and relatively quick. I got tested this week, and it was fast and painless. Register here for your free test: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040445a5a622a6fa7-bluewater1>

Where to go for a remote class: If you have a remote class immediately following an on-campus class, there will be plenty of places to plug in your computer. The library, the SAC and most buildings will have some smaller classrooms available for students to study and maintain social distance. Be sure to bring your ear buds so you don't disturb others. If your computer

has a full charge, feel free to sit in one of the tents outside or on the lawn. Campus has wifi everywhere.

Make smart decisions: I know that we can be healthy learning on campus if we all take these simple precautions. But it's also important to make smart decisions about what you do in your free time: spend time outdoors, in small physically distanced groups, and wear your masks! Don't go to parties or large gatherings.

Still have questions? Please check out our Pivot to Fall coronavirus web site at: <https://louisville.edu/coronavirus/>. It includes detailed information on a number of topics.

It's a privilege to be a Cardinal, to be on campus learning from each other, and each Cardinal is responsible for complying with policies to keep us all healthy during this pandemic. Thanks for keeping your faculty, staff and fellow students safe.

I look forward to seeing you—masked—on campus, and know that we can learn, have fun and make lifelong friends in what we are calling “the next normal.”

Best,

Beth A. Boehm
Executive Vice President and University Provost