

**Subject:** Welcome to fall 2021, updates and reminders for faculty and staff

**Date:** Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 12:10:49 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Provost

**To:** UofL-Employees

Colleagues,

The countdown to the start of classes has begun and I look forward to beginning my first fall semester with you all this year. Since starting my role in April, I've been astounded by the warm welcomes I've received from so many of you and the Community of Care principle that reverberates across our campuses. I'm excited to partner with you this academic year in continuing to make UofL a great place to learn, work and invest.

I know that for some of you, excitement about the fall semester might be tempered by anxiety about the continued pandemic. I understand that anxiety. I also encourage you to remember that we have multiple, representative groups across campus that have been and will continue to be dedicated to ensuring safe and optimal operations and protocols for campus. It is important for us to build back our campus community's sense of belonging and to provide a vibrant, on-campus experience for students. We will continue to urge as many Cardinals as possible to get vaccinated and we will follow the guidance set forth by the state and CDC. Below, you'll find some important reminders and updates about the fall semester that I'd like to share with you.

### **Provost office updates**

As both executive vice president and university provost, I've hired two new people to my office and made some changes. I hired Douglas Craddock, PhD, previously with the College of Education and Human Development, to serve as chief of staff and Sarah Lopez, previously with the Office of Communications and Marketing, to serve as deputy chief of staff for my office. Additionally, Stacie Nielsen has been promoted to the role of executive assistant and Beth Willey, PhD, has been promoted to vice provost of undergraduate research.

Starting next month, my office will host regular "Coffee with the Provost" events. These small, themed events will take place in my office throughout the academic year and are meant to provide you with a space to speak openly with me in person. Dates and registration details for these small events will be posted in UofL Today.

### **Masks and COVID reminders**

Remember, masks are required in all public, indoor settings on campus. The [Faculty tab](#) of the COVID-19 website provides resources and recommended responses for handling mask compliance. Same as last year, if faculty can achieve six feet or more of physical distance from all masked students in an indoor classroom, faculty are allowed to remove their mask for the extent of their lectures. Staff should know this also pertains to presenters at meetings and [events](#).

Remember, when you run into questions or concerns with the COVID-19 protocols, review the FAQs on the COVID-19 website or contact the [Business Operations COVID-19 Support Team](#).

## **Testing and vaccination**

The first period of required testing for all unvaccinated Cardinals coming to campus this fall starts today, Aug. 17, and goes through Aug. 27. Campus Health recently sent out a campus-wide communication with testing reminders, instructions for uploading off-campus testing proof and instructions for submitting out-of-state vaccination proof.

On-campus vaccination stations are conveniently set up next to Bluewater's on-campus testing sites at the SRC and Abell building so unvaccinated Cardinals can easily make the important decision to get vaccinated. For more information about testing and vaccination, visit the [Health Protocols tab](#) of the COVID-19 website.

## **Our semester together**

Finally, I'd like to leave you with one of my favorite proverbs: fall down seven times, get up eight. To me, this Japanese proverb is about resilience and I see so much of that in the Cardinal Family. Each time we meet adversity and persevere, we are stronger and better prepared to take on the next challenge. I believe one of the greatest partners to the action of resilience is the practice of grace. As we embark on this new semester together amidst the challenges of the continued pandemic, let us practice grace with both ourselves and with others. As we hold tight to the Cardinal Principle of Noble Purpose, let's lean firmly on our principles of Community of Care and Respect, irrespective of position. I'm honored to be on this journey with you and I look forward to the semester ahead.

Take care,

Lori

**Lori Stewart Gonzalez**  
Executive Vice President and University Provost  
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