Cardinal Students,

We are thrilled to soon start the fall 2021 semester with in-person classes and activities. The on-campus experience is a vibrant and exciting part of being a Cardinal. If you’re a first- or second-year student, we hope you attend Welcome Week events to kick-start your year with vital connections and fun activities.

In order to maintain an on-campus experience together this year, we need you to do your part. We strongly encourage you to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Read below for the protocols and expectations you should also be aware of this semester.

**COVID-19 protocols and expectations**

- **Starting Aug. 9, all university members are required to mask in public, indoor spaces**, regardless of vaccination status. Public, indoor spaces are defined as any space inside a campus building that is not considered a private room or private office. Indoor classrooms, academic labs, common areas, libraries, hallways, elevators and restrooms are all considered public spaces that are subject to the mask requirement.

- **Unvaccinated university members are required to get tested regularly** starting Aug. 17. For the full schedule of required testing periods, visit the Testing Program section of the COVID-19 website. Get vaccinated now to avoid the hassle of required testing.

- **Submit your out-of-state COVID-19 vaccination record** if you were vaccinated outside the state of Kentucky. Campus Health Services only has access to the Kentucky immunization registry. Please follow these instructions to upload your out-of-state COVID-19 vaccination documentation to the university’s secure health portal.

- **Read the Fall 2021 Student Acknowledgement** at the top of the Student Affairs website. By coming to campus this fall, you acknowledge that you are aware of UofL’s health and safety protocols and your individual responsibilities.

- **If you develop symptoms of COVID-19**, you should: stay home, notify your professors, notify Campus Health (502-852-6446 or hlthoff@louisville.edu) and contact your medical provider. Read more about the quarantine and isolation protocols.

- **If you have a question or concern about COVID-19 protocols**, review the COVID-19 website, read the FAQs or call, live chat or email a helpful member of the Business Operations COVID-19 Support Team.

**Get vaccinated, help us reach 80%**

- **Vaccination is our best defense against the virus and its variants.** All three of the vaccines available in the U.S. are safe and effective and are approved for use by the Food and Drug
Association. You can text your zip code right now to 4-3-8-8-2-9 to get a quick text back with vaccine locations near you.

- **When we reach a campus-wide vaccination rate of 80%,** we plan to suspend the mask requirement. Additionally, if the CDC were to change its recommendations or the number of cases in our area were to drop significantly, that would also cause us to suspend the mask requirement.

At this time, we know that at least 30% of students and 67.7% of faculty and staff are fully vaccinated. Student athletes and students at our HSC campus are already leading the way with increasing the student vaccination rate. We are thrilled to know that 85% of student athletes and 82% of dentistry students are already vaccinated!

**We are ONE Cardinal Family**
In addition to our health and safety protocols, we must lean on each of our Cardinal Principles to guide our interactions on campus. We will continue to actively monitor COVID-19 activity in our area and campus, listen to expert recommendations from our researchers and doctors, and follow CDC and state guidance. We commit to staying on top of this evolving situation and keeping you regularly updated.

Remember, the sooner we all get vaccinated, the sooner we can ease our restrictions and defeat this virus and its variants. If you’ve already been vaccinated, thank you for doing your part and making our campus community safer. Join our #LsUpSleevesUp social media campaign and share your reason for getting vaccinated. More information will be released soon about a vaccination incentive program being developed for those who have been vaccinated to enter into raffles for special prizes.

Together, let’s stay safe, stay healthy and stop the spread of COVID-19.

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**Kevin Gardner**  
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