To the UofL community,

Thank you so much for your response to the required COVID-19 testing. More than 1,400 people – almost one third of the total who participated in the previous two weeks – were tested yesterday. We appreciate your cooperation.

We understand that there were long lines at a couple of testing sites due to the large number of walk-ins. Please make an appointment to decrease wait times.

In an effort to make testing more convenient and to alleviate large crowds, we have added evening sessions from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday at the Belknap Campus locations.

We want to take this opportunity to reiterate our rationale for requiring testing in the next two weeks. We are thankful to the more than 4,800 of you who were tested in our first two weeks of at-will testing. While this gives us a solid base of information on the viruses spread, we had hoped that more than 20-25% of faculty, staff and students would opt in. We felt it necessary to mandate testing during this period because more comprehensive data will help us control any spread on campus and allow us to continue to offer classes as designed for the duration of the fall semester. We fully anticipate our positivity rate will continue to lag behind the city and state, but we owe it to you to be sure.

As a reminder, our first two weeks of testing indicate our community is taking their responsibility to each other very seriously. During the first week of testing, the overall positivity rate was about 2%. During the second week of testing, the positivity rate was 1.65%. This brings our overall positivity rate to 1.8%. We are updating our progress every Tuesday on our Testing Dashboard. (The dashboard is not mobile-friendly. We will try to correct that as soon as possible.)

It has been gratifying to see people spacing appropriately, wearing masks, and avoiding gathering in large crowds. We are pleased to see the positivity rate decline but even more pleased to announce that we have greatly increased the number of contact tracers in our employ to 8 FTE. We remain hopeful that the combination of testing, tracing and good hygiene will enable us to continue normal operations.

Again, our goal is to reduce the spread of coronavirus on our campus and keep our students, faculty and staff healthy and well. This will allow us to have a full and successful fall semester.

Let’s all continue to do our part to get tested, to isolate if and when we need to, and to keep each other safe by good hygiene and physical distancing. We will get through this together.

On Behalf of the Pivot to Fall Committee,

Beth A. Boehm
Executive Vice President and University Provost
Kevin Gardner
Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation

Michael Mardis
Dean of Students

Mark Watkins
Chief Operating Officer

Phillip Bressoud
Executive Director, Campus Health Services