

**Subject:** Spring Forward: What You Need to Know about Spring 2021

**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 3:18:57 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** UofL Update

**To:** UofL Update

Cardinal Faculty and Staff,

We know 2020 is not the year that any of us expected. In these challenging times, however, our Cardinal Family has shown Resiliency. We have persevered and pressed forward together in such inspiring ways thanks to your hard work and your Agility. We have also learned lessons together. Rooted in our Cardinal Principles of Accountability and Leadership, we have taken those lessons and built upon them to develop our spring 2021 plans. The new semester offers hope and a fresh start for all of us. In this email, you will find highlights of our spring 2021 plans so that you can anticipate the actions and expectations of the new semester.

### Changes and updates to our COVID-19 response

- **Once the COVID-19 vaccine is widely available, it will not be required but highly encouraged.** The FDA approved vaccine is being distributed in phases, starting first with health care facilities and long-term care facilities. Once the vaccine becomes available to the university, Campus Health Services will widely communicate instructions for how and where to get the vaccine. For details on the vaccine, read the new [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs](#).
- **We will have monthly required testing** for all university members who come to campus in the spring. The first required testing period will be Jan. 4 through Jan. 15. If you will not be on campus at all for the spring semester, or if you test positive for COVID-19 within 90 days of the start of a required testing period, you will be exempt from this requirement.
- **Our quarantine protocols have changed.** In line with guidance from the CDC and Kentucky Health Department, we are lowering our quarantine timeframe from 14 days to 10 days. For our students who are in university housing, however, the timeframe will remain 14 days.
- **We are finalizing a new health app** that will take the place of the Cardinal SelfCheck. This new app will allow for quicker contact tracing and easy scheduling for testing, vaccination and health visit appointments on campus in the spring. Additionally, it will provide contactless sign-in at appointments and a symptom reporting tool. More details about this app will be communicated in January.
- **[The Spring 2021 Information for Faculty](#)** webpage is now available and serves as a central location for faculty-specific information about the spring semester, such as the academic calendar, attendance policies, hybrid instruction support resources, and much more.
- **[The 2020-2021 Information for Employees](#)** webpage still contains details about the university's continued emergency temporary telecommuting guidelines (which remain in effect through June 30, 2021). If the current global health emergency changes before that time and this policy is no longer applicable, the university will provide 30 days' notice to impacted employees. Although the federal Emergency Paid Sick Leave and FMLA Expansion programs will end on

December 31, 2020, we are pleased to notify you that any unused emergency leave sick hours will be gifted to employees as regular sick time, effective January 1, 2021.

### **Enjoy a safe and healthy holiday season**

Over the winter break, COVID-19 testing will still be available on campus. Review the [Winter Break Testing Schedule](#) for specific dates and registration details. We know this is a lot of information, so we will remind you of the spring 2021 protocols and expectations in the UofL Today employee newsletter's COVID-19 UPDATES section in the new year. When there are major updates or changes, we will continue to communicate those to you via email. If you ever feel like you're having trouble keeping up with all the university communications related to our COVID-19 response, remember: a copy of each communication gets stored on the [Communications and Updates](#) tab of the COVID-19 website for easy access. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season, and we look forward to having a great, safe and healthy semester with you this spring.

On behalf of the Coordinating Committee,

**Beth A. Boehm**

Executive Vice President and University Provost

**Kevin Gardner**

Executive Vice President for Research & Innovation

**Mary Elizabeth Miles**

Vice President, Human Resources

**Phillip Bressoud**

Executive Director, Campus Health Services

**Mark J. Watkins**

Chief Operating Officer