Cardinal Students,

We know 2020 is not the year that any of us expected. In these challenging times, however, the Cardinal Family has shown Resiliency. We have persevered and pressed forward together in such inspiring ways. 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. If you are or will be 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 Students webpage** is now live on the university’s COVID-19 website. This is your central location for student-specific information on the spring semester such as the academic calendar, campus housing and more. Our Health Protocols tab is where you’ll find campus-wide details regarding testing, vaccines, our continued mask requirement and more.
**Actions to take before returning to campus**

Prior to returning to campus this spring, all students must do the following to maximize our campus community’s safety from the coronavirus:

- **Quarantine for 10 days at home prior to arrival on campus.** This includes refraining from non-essential trips to local businesses and restaurants and non-essential group gatherings and events. In addition to quarantine, please be sure to stay six feet from others who are not part of your household and wear a mask in public spaces.

- **Get a flu shot.** If you did not get a flu shot in the fall, schedule an appointment with [Campus Health Services](#) to get one. All students are required to get a flu shot. If you received a flu shot with an off-campus provider, if you will not be coming to campus at all, or if you are seeking an exemption, complete this [waiver form](#).

- **Read the Spring 2021 Student Acknowledgement.** By coming to campus this spring, you acknowledge that you are aware of UofL's health protocols and expectations, along with your individual responsibilities as outlined in the [Spring 2021 Student Acknowledgement](#).

**Enjoy a safe and healthy winter break**

Over the winter break, COVID-19 testing will still be available to you. Review the [Winter Break Testing Schedule](#) for specific dates and registration details. We know this is a lot of information, so we will send you reminders about the spring 2021 protocols and expectations via email and the Student News & Events newsletter in the new year. We hope you enjoy your break 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

**Michael Mardis**  
Dean of Students

**Phillip Bressoud**  
Executive Director, Campus Health Services

**Mark J. Watkins**  
Chief Operating Officer