

Subject: Vaccination mandate halted by U.S. District Court

Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 10:52:28 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: Provost

To: Provost

Cardinal Community,

As we move toward the end of another successful semester, we would like to applaud the efforts of our entire campus community for taking the necessary steps to keep our university safe during these challenging times. With a vaccination rate over 90% and adherence to health and safety protocols, we have kept the impact of COVID-19 on our campuses at a minimum. We have so much to celebrate as we approach the winter break.

On November 18, our campus community was informed of the university's decision to comply with the vaccination mandate for all employees as required by Executive Order 14042. At that time, university leaders began a significant planning effort to ensure compliance with the federal mandate. On November 30, the U.S. District Court granted a preliminary injunction to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and directed that the vaccination mandate be halted.

While we must take certain steps to continue preparation efforts should the District Court's decision be overturned, we are suspending the vaccination mandate for employees. The COVID-19 vaccines and boosters available in the U.S. continue to be safe, effective and our best tool for fighting against the pandemic. Remember, if you choose to remain unvaccinated, you are required to adhere to the university's [testing](#) requirement.

We wish you all the best as we close out the semester and head into a well-deserved break.

Lori Stewart Gonzalez

Executive Vice President and University Provost

Kevin Gardner

Executive Vice President for Research & Innovation

Michael Mardis

Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students

Mary Elizabeth Miles

Vice President, Human Resources

Phillip Bressoud

Executive Director, Campus Health Services

Mark J. Watkins

Chief Operating Officer