Dear Cardinal Family,

We have several updates and reminders for you regarding our university’s continued response to the pandemic.

**Changes to the vaccine distribution plan**

UofL Health is working hard to get its limited vaccine supply distributed to our university members and other members of the public. They are currently in Phase 1B of Kentucky’s COVID-19 Vaccination Plan. UofL Health works directly with the state on when each phase of the plan can be rolled out; therefore, our university’s prioritized groups must be in alignment with the state’s plan:

- Phase 1A: Long term care facilities, assisted living facilities and healthcare personnel
- Phase 1B: First responders, anyone 70 or older, K-12 school personnel
- Phase 1C: Anyone 60 or older, anyone age 16 or older with CDC highest risk C19 conditional, all essential workers (university staff and faculty will be included in this phase)
- Phase 2: Anyone over the age of 40
- Phase 3: Anyone 16 or older (the vaccine is currently only approved for those who are 18 years or older)

At this time, UofL Health believes they will be able to move into Phase 1C by mid-March. As vaccine supply increases, the state and UofL Health will be able to move into other phases. While there may be valid arguments for prioritization of other groups (e.g., those with underlying health conditions), UofL does not have the ability to change the state’s plan.

**Required testing starts again next week**

Our next required testing period begins Monday, Feb. 8. All university members who come to campus, even if only periodically, must get tested between Feb. 8 and Feb. 19. Here are updates to our testing program:

- If you are not coming to campus at all this semester, you must fill out this reporting form. If you completed this form in the fall semester, you must complete it again for the spring semester. Those who had trouble earlier this month filling it out a second time will now be able to complete it.
- For details on required testing exemptions and how to pre-register for testing appointments, read the updated Testing Program section on the COVID-19 website. You must pre-register before every testing appointment with Bluewater this semester.
- We will continue to require testing, regardless of vaccination status, for the rest of the semester. Although the vaccine is highly effective, it is still possible to become infected after being vaccinated.

**Masking and quarantine reminders**

The pandemic has lasted longer than most of us anticipated and we understand how some have grown weary with the safety precautions. We must, however, remain diligent with following all the health and safety protocols. Stay masked in public, indoor spaces and practice physical distancing. Additionally,
remember that a negative test at any point during a quarantine period does not shorten the 10-day requirement (or 14-day requirement for those in communal living situations). Read the Contact Tracing, Isolation and Quarantine section of the university COVID-19 website for more details and scenarios.

Let’s all keep doing our part to live, study and work as safely as possible, both on and off campus. Thank you for your continued diligence with all the health and safety protocols. We will continue to keep you informed and updated.

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