

**Subject:** Planning for Fall 2020 semester

**Date:** Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 8:19:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** UofL President,Service Account

**To:** UofL President,Service Account

Cardinal Family,

This Spring semester was not what any of us expected at the start of the year. And yet, despite the significant challenges of the pandemic of Covid-19, our students, faculty, staff and administrators have shown that talent and teamwork, patience and persistence, care and compassion are hallmarks of how Cardinals respond to a crisis.

As Spring draws to a close, the most frequent question I get is this: “Will we be back on campus in the Fall?” My unequivocal answer is: Yes!

**The University of Louisville will have regular campus operations for the Fall semester. This entails students living on campus, learning on campus and online, and faculty and staff working together to advance our mission of teaching, and research, and service.**

In many ways, UofL is better prepared than many to ensure we have a safe and productive Fall semester for on-campus living and learning. Recall that we never did close this semester. Throughout Spring, we continued to serve over 2700 students who remained in our campus facilities or in affiliated housing. Further, our research and healthcare infrastructure give us confidence that we will be able to provide necessary testing and contact tracing to mitigate risk. We have learned how to nimbly move from in-person to online, preparing us to complement and enhance traditional learning with online and remote instruction as needed.

The paramount concern for me has been and will be the health and wellbeing of our people. Here are some of the ways we are preparing for the Fall.

- As the chief academic officer, Executive Vice President and University Provost Beth Boehm is heading a work group to ensure our students get the best education in the Fall and that our faculty and staff are fully supported in this effort.
- As the chief research officer, Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation (EVPRI) Kevin Gardner is working with our leading UofL researchers and our Campus Health Services to ensure we can conduct rapid and accurate testing of students, faculty and staff and implement contact tracing to mitigate risk.
- Vice President of Academic Medical Affairs Toni Ganzel is working in partnership with UofL Health CEO Tom Miller to ensure our health system and the clinicians and researchers that fuel it are fully supported in their important work and prepared to serve the needs of the UofL community.
- Chief Financial Officer Dan Durbin and Chief Operations Officer Mark Watkins are ensuring that we have readied the University’s finances, facilities and other operations for a safe return to in-person work.

We will continue to work with state and local health officials, as well as our own experts, as we move forward.

We are in the early stages of this planning, so many details are currently being developed. We know there are many questions that we need to answer between now and the start of the Fall semester. We will be providing a more comprehensive update on our path forward by the first week of June. I promise you that we will keep you updated every step of the way.

What I have seen of our UofL family is that we are uniquely able to rise to a challenge and overcome it. This global health situation is no different. I have full confidence that the UofL students, staff and faculty I interact with each and every day are ready for anything, and that is true in this situation as well.

I look forward to seeing faculty and staff back on campus in the near future and to welcoming our students for the fall semester.

Go Cards!

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