Subject: Vaccination progress and update on masking
Date: Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 12:50:50 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Provost
To: UofL-Employees, UofL-Students

Cardinal Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to commend our entire campus community for surpassing our 80% vaccination rate goal! When Cardinals come together, we make a tremendous impact here and beyond. The COVID-19 vaccines are effective, protective against serious effects of COVID-19 and are a critical tool for bringing the pandemic under control. Our high vaccination rate makes our campuses a safer place to be.

This is a great achievement and truly deserving of celebration. I also want you to know that the level of transmission in the surrounding Jefferson County area has increased since Aug. 6 when we first set the goal to reach an 80% vaccination rate and ease restrictions. Based on the CDC’s recommendation for regions with high transmission levels to continue wearing masks in public, indoor settings, we have decided it would not be wise to suspend our campus-wide mask mandate at this time. Additionally, our university’s public health experts tell us higher percentages of vaccination rates across campus should be reached for optimal herd immunity.

We will continue to closely monitor the situation and if we see an opportunity to safely adjust our protocols, we will inform you. If you have not yet been vaccinated, I strongly encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Next week, Campus Health will begin hosting flu shots. The pop-up vaccination events will take a one-week pause, but the COVID-19 vaccine will still be available at the HSC Campus Health Center. Pop-up vaccination events across campus will begin again on Sept. 27. Remember, there are also numerous off-campus locations all around us offering the COVID-19 vaccine.

I’m so proud of our Cardinal community for embracing the true spirit of UofL being a Community of Care.

Take Care,

Lori Stewart Gonzalez
Executive Vice President and University Provost
University of Louisville