

Faculty Senate Statement on COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement

The Faculty senate recognizes the tremendous efforts by students, staff, faculty and administration in addressing the many and constantly changing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We commend all who worked so hard this semester to ensure the value of an in-person residential experience at the University of Louisville as being critical to student success, the value of offering educational opportunities in healthy classroom environments and the need to avoid interruptions to in-person classes and activities due to COVID-19 disease outbreaks.

Through our great collaborative effort, we have achieved a high level of vaccination (combined 84.2% as of 9/13/21) and have maintained a relatively low positivity rate since returning to campus (<https://louisville.edu/coronavirus/dashboard/dashboardv3>). We applaud the continued efforts that have incentivized vaccination and resulted in the dramatic increase in the percent vaccinated on campus.

We recognize that beyond our university community, vaccination rates have lagged and positivity rates are higher and the increased risk posed by the delta variant puts our university and surrounding community at greater risk.

Now is the time to further fortify our efforts to ensure the health and wellbeing of our campus community. We call on all students, staff, faculty and administration to stay vigilant in our efforts and to continue promoting and/or to adopt additional measures that ensure campus safety, including a continuation of the masking mandate, an increased frequency of testing for unvaccinated individuals and the ongoing strategies to incentivize COVID-19 vaccinations for our campus community. We believe that through these efforts, we can achieve even higher vaccination levels.

The University of Louisville's *Cardinal Principles* charge us to be a "Community of Care". We embody this by showing that we, as stated in the Principles, "care for self, care for one another as the Cardinal Family and care for the community beyond. We are a community—not just a collection of individuals".

The Faculty Senate supports the COVID-19 vaccination as a key component of the health and safety of the Cardinal Family. We join the UofL administration and our other campus constituencies with the commitment of a continued collaboration to support and aid all efforts in encouraging individuals to receive the vaccination. The Faculty Senate endorses a vaccine mandate for all faculty, staff and students