

A Message from University of Kentucky

PRESIDENT ELI CAPILOUTO

Vaccinations: Our Progress and Next Steps

Excerpted from: <https://www.uky.edu/president/sites/www.uky.edu/president/files/4.9.21.pdf>

Late (last week), we met another important milestone in our efforts to make our community – and all those we serve – healthier and safer: **We administered our 200,000th vaccine dose in the fight against COVID-19.**

That's 200,000 injections of healing and hope. That's 200,000 shots that represent thousands of members of our university and health care communities who have volunteered and made this fight their focus for more than a year. That's 200,000 steps – some small, some large, all important – toward returning to more normal operations and the lives we long to share with loved ones, friends and families.

But this milestone also must remind us that there is still so much to do. That is why I write to you today regarding next steps and more information on what we have done thus far:

- Thousands of appointments for vaccines remain open at our clinic at Kroger Field, even as the state has recently expanded eligibility for shots to anyone age 16 or older.
- Getting scheduled for a vaccine is easy. Go to vaccine.ukhc.org to register. You will receive confirmation of your interest and an invitation to schedule your appointment.

Vaccinations are our best defense against the virus. They represent, in an important sense, our best offense in our plan to return to as normal of operations as possible in fall 2021. Our campus has made incredible progress toward that end:

- More than 10,000 UK HealthCare team members – nearly 93 percent -- have been vaccinated. That process started in mid-December.
- Outside of health care, there are almost 19,000 faculty, staff and students working on our campus.
- Amongst that number, nearly 78 percent of faculty have been vaccinated.
- More than 80 percent of faculty have either been vaccinated or are in the process of being vaccinated, meaning they registered for a vaccine and should be in the process of being vaccinated at UK or elsewhere.
- **More than 64 percent of staff have been vaccinated; 70 percent have been either vaccinated or are in the process of being vaccinated.**
- Outside of a health care context, nearly 14,000 students have been vaccinated already, and another 3,000+ are in the process of being vaccinated.
- That represents well more than half of our student population of roughly 30,000. It is the result of the fact that so many of our students work in health care and research settings or in other employment in our campus community.

We have an obligation to lead. We have an opportunity to serve. Both ideas are embedded in our mission as a land-grant institution. Over the last year, we have stepped up to meet every challenge, no matter how daunting and no matter the cost. I am proud to be part of a community so committed to its people and to our responsibility to serve our state and world.



Olivia Tussey and Bethany Schagane, student interns with **UK Recycling**, have organized **Waste Reduction Week** for this week (April 12-16). Working with their mentors **Joanna Ashford** and **Esther Moberly**, the pair has developed unique and engaging events for everyday (and everyone) next week. **GREAT WORK OLIVIA AND BETHANY!** Full event schedule and additional info here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/087dc53270e846e782a78d388169aca6>