Forward Together Update, March 2, 2021

University of Northern Iowa

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Forward Togetherness Update

Dear Panther Community,

More good news arrived on the vaccination front last weekend when the federal government approved a third coronavirus vaccine. The federal government now projects it will have enough vaccines for all Americans by the end of May. As vaccines become more widely available, public health officials urge us to receive whichever is available first.

Unlike the vaccines from Pfizer-BionTech and Moderna, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a single dose. Health officials say that having a third vaccine in the mix should help improve the speed at which the country is inoculated against COVID-19.

Please be aware that a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been found to provide strong protection against coronavirus, particularly the most severe forms.

The first doses of the new vaccine are expected to arrive in Iowa this week. Supplies of all three vaccines remain limited and Iowa health authorities have said it will only expand eligibility when 70% of each target demographic - like those 65 and older - is vaccinated. Updated state information is available here.

Remember that wearing masks, remaining socially distanced, reporting symptoms via the PantherHealth survey and getting tested continue to remain important in the coming months. The city of Cedar Falls this week renewed their mask mandate through April 7. Waterloo's mask mandate also remains in effect.

If you have a question, please visit forwardtogether.uni.edu or email it to forwardtogether@uni.edu. Thanks for all that you do to keep yourself, your family and the Panther community safe.

Stay Well,

John Vallentine,
Associate Provost for Faculty

Joseph Rayzor,
Director of Risk Management, Environmental Health and Safety