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Forward Together Update, May 4, 2021

University of Northern Iowa

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Forward Together Update

Dear Panther Community,

For those on campus who wish to receive the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, **walk-in appointments are now being accepted for today's clinic**. Students, faculty, staff and their immediate family members who are over 18 do not need an appointment and may stop by the West Gym from noon to 3:15 p.m.

If you participated in the on-campus vaccination clinic last month, don’t forget to return for your second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine as scheduled on Wednesday through Friday in the West Gym. Bring your vaccination card so your second dose can be documented.

Remember, the more Panthers who get vaccinated, the safer we all are. Vaccines are now also readily available throughout the community at vaccination clinics, health providers, and pharmacies as identified by [Black Hawk County Health Department](https://www.bhc.org/). Receiving the vaccine will facilitate the quickest return to safe, in-person experiences for our Panther Community.

In Black Hawk County, nearly 54% of adults have now received at least one dose of vaccine, according to the county health department. Overall, about 2 in 5 adults are now fully vaccinated in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control.

**Why Get Vaccinated?**

Even if you're young and healthy, it's possible to spread COVID-19 to others. And not everyone is able to be vaccinated. Chronically ill children or people with immune-system diseases are among them. Getting vaccinated helps protect them, too.

The variant of COVID-19 that is now estimated to be the dominant strain is much more contagious and severe than the version that circulated for much of last year. Vaccines are safe and effective against this variant.

While it's still unknown when or if the U.S. as a whole will reach true herd immunity, communities where more people are vaccinated are better protected.

If you want to learn more, talk to your physician, your friends or family who've been vaccinated or research on your own using reliable sources like the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov). You can even
call a Black Hawk County public health expert from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to ask questions at 319-292-2360.

Thanks to the entire Panther Community for your efforts this semester in keeping everyone safe. If you have a question, please visit forwardtogether.uni.edu or email it to forwardtogether@uni.edu.

Stay Well,

John Vallentine, Associate Provost for Faculty