Dear Panther Community,

Several new studies from the Centers for Disease Control provide powerful reminders of the importance of getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

**One study that reviewed more than 600,000 cases** in 13 states found that unvaccinated individuals were 4.5 times more likely to be infected, 10 times more likely to be hospitalized and 10 times more likely to die from coronavirus.

There’s also evidence vaccines are better than natural immunity if previously infected by COVID. **A study found** that among persons with previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, full vaccination provides additional protection against reinfection. In order to reduce their risk of infection, all eligible persons should be offered vaccination.

Here in northeast Iowa, hospitals are reporting that nearly 97% of those under age 60 who are hospitalized for COVID are unvaccinated. **We strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated.**

**Vaccines are available (including on campus!)**

Vaccines are readily available, including at the Student Health Clinic every Thursday from 1:00-3:00pm and Friday from 9:00-11:00am.

Students who are fully vaccinated can receive a $25 UNI Bookstore gift card, available at Essentials: Monday - Thursday: 8:30am - 6:00pm and Friday: 8:30am - 2:30pm.

If you are looking for a vaccine off-campus, search **vaccines.gov**, text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you.

**COVID-19 Vaccines That Require 2 Doses**

Both the **Pfizer-BioNTech** and **Moderna** COVID-19 vaccine require 2 doses to get the most protection. These vaccines are not interchangeable, so you should get the same product for your second dose.
University of Northern Iowa

Planning for your second dose is important and the Student Health Center can make an appointment for your second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech at the time you get your first shot. If you received your first vaccine of Pfizer-BioNTech off campus and need help scheduling your second vaccination appointment, contact the Student Health Center at (319) 273-2100 or stop by the center any Thursday from 1:00-3:00pm or Friday from 9:00-11:00am. If you received your first dose of Moderna and need access to your second vaccine visit vaccines.gov to find vaccination providers near you. Learn more about COVID-19 Vaccination Locations on vaccines.gov.

Remember, you are not fully vaccinated until 2 weeks after your second shot in a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

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