

From: [President Gary L. Miller](#)
To: ua-mail@lists.uakron.edu
Subject: Update on return to campus for employees
Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 12:16:14 PM



Dear colleagues,

If you happened to venture out during the Memorial Day holiday weekend, I'm sure you sensed the feeling of optimism — and even excitement — as you likely saw more people outdoors visiting parks, attending baseball games, dining at restaurants, and spending time with family and friends. All are signs that many aspects of our lives are beginning to return to the way they were pre-pandemic.

More than 45 percent of eligible Ohioans have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 40 percent of the state's eligible population is fully vaccinated (as of June 1). With the [safety](#) and [efficacy](#) of the vaccines well documented, and with vaccination rates increasing, I am very pleased to report that I have accepted a recommendation from a subcommittee of the University's COVID-19 Response Team to return employees to campus effective July 6.

One of the biggest concerns expressed by our students during the past year has been disappointment with the lack of an in-person campus experience. By returning employees to campus, we can better fulfill our mission to maximize that experience by being available to meet the needs of our students in person. From campus tours to New Student Orientation, this summer will be an exciting time to engage with our students.

While the expectation is that the majority of employees return to working on campus, I recognize the growing demands on employees and the increasing challenge of finding new and better ways to provide service and meet University goals. The University supports flexible work arrangements to achieve a highly productive work environment that enables employees to balance work and personal needs while providing

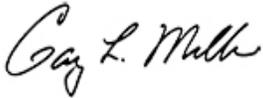
workforce predictability and stability. As a result, Human Resources has developed a new Flexible Work Arrangement (FWA) Policy and application process — more details of which will be released the week of June 7. [Key dates associated with that process can be found on the HR website.](#)

As I have previously shared, this fall we will see in-person classes at full capacity, residence halls at near capacity, campus celebrations — such as homecoming and sporting events — taking place in person. The COVID-19 Response Team and I feel strongly that we can safely do these things, based on changes to state and federal health and safety guidelines.

While we respect the individual choices of every Zip, we strongly encourage our community to roll up their sleeves for the [COVID-19 vaccination](#). Additionally, we encourage all vaccinated employees and students to upload their vaccination card in [Med+Proctor](#), after their final dose, to help the University track our community immunity levels and better prepare for fall 2021.

I am grateful to everyone for their efforts to keep rising during the past year. The future looks bright and I am looking forward to seeing all of you — my colleagues and our students — on campus soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary L. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Gary L. Miller
President
The University of Akron