

From: [Dr. Larry H. Hollier - Chancellor](#)

Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:52 AM

To: [LSUHSC N.O. Faculty, Staff and Students](#)

Subject: Pre-Commencement

Dear LSU Health New Orleans community,

Like you, we, too, feel that graduation is the most important thing we celebrate. After all, education is the reason we exist. Recognition of the commitment, dedication and hard work that go into both teaching and learning is something we look forward to sharing as each class reaches this milestone. As you are too well aware, to protect health, we have not been able to hold large events during the pandemic. That has precluded in-person ceremonies. While the pandemic is not yet over, vaccines have greatly accelerated the pace of our progress -- just not enough to plan for in-person campus-wide commencement exercises. Since they are so much smaller, we are considering the possibility of holding in-person pre-commencement ceremonies if the gathering size restrictions permit them.

The only way we can safely have them though, is if we have herd immunity through vaccination for the participants. Anyone who is not vaccinated will not be allowed to participate in person, only virtually.

If you, too, would like to enjoy these celebrations with your classes, please consider getting vaccinated if you haven't already. You can make an appointment [here](#).

Thank you for doing your part to keep our campus safe and put this pandemic behind us.

Sincerely,

Larry Hollier, MD
Chancellor

This message has been authorized by LSU Health Sciences Center administration for mass distribution as a service to our faculty, staff and students.