Dear all,

Next week I'll be circulating a call for volunteers to take part in a Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Testing (RADT) pilot project. Run by the HSE, this will be open to staff and students with the aim of establishing the feasibility of implementing such testing at scale in education settings. Information, volunteer application details and video guides about antigen testing will be available [here](#).

Return to Campus Working updates
Most areas have submitted and had their Return-to-Work Business Response Plans approved. For those staff who continue to work remotely and who have not been included in an approved Business Response Plan, please note the following if you need to come on campus:
- Access for less than one hour – permitted/no approval required,
- Access for more than one hour – must obtain approval from Line Manager/Head of Department

Staff visiting the campus are reminded to continue to follow [Public Health guidance](#).

There have been reports of difficulties ensuring that enough Worker Representatives are trained and available in some parts of the campus. Please note that the training process has changed. An external company is no longer used in order to simplify and expedite the process. Once nominated by a Head of Department, the Health and Safety Authority Worker Lead Representative training link is circulated to the appointee. The appointee is also forwarded a list of the UL isolation rooms and information on management of a suspected COVID-19 case in UL.

UL's SDG Working Group – Call for Participation and Stories
University of Limerick is committed to the development and implementation of a holistic approach to sustainable development in partnership with our region, with the aim of empowering our students, graduates and staff as active citizens who contribute to the well-being and future of our planet. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Working Group has been established to bring together expertise from multiple disciplines and functional areas across UL and beyond. Its aim is to guide UL in actively working towards the UN SDGs and ultimately the journey towards becoming a Sustainable University.

The first task of the group is to craft a Sustainable University Strategy for January 2022 that will enable the UL community to make active and transparent progress towards the SDGs.

Stories for UL's Sustainability Report 2021
If you have a story or project that connects to the UN SDGS, the working group would love to hear from you so it can be considered for this year's UL Sustainability Report. Please contact vicky.kelly@ul.ie for more information or to get involved with the working group. To find out more, please go to the [UL Sustainability website](#).

Annual Leave
The [Annual Leave Procedure](#) (December 2020) requires all staff to request, approve and record their annual leave on the Core HR system. You are permitted to carry over up to **10 days** from your 2021 annual leave allocation into 2022. This carry over must be used by the end of June next year.

UL in the Media
Last night on Prime Time, Professor Orla Muldoon addressed the continuing issue of gender-based violence against women and highlighted it as a systemic problem in society. Watch the interview [here](#) (21.10 minutes into the programme).

On [RTÉ Brainstorm](#), Dr Catherine Norton from the Health Research Institute, explains there really is no one-size-fits-all solution to hydration but your pee will tell if you need to drink more.

From the Bernal Institute, [listen](#) to Professor Damien Thompson talking on Newstalk about the discovery of a new molecule that will be used for next-generation computers modelled on the human brain.

A reminder to bookmark the [UL News Centre](#) to keep in touch with current stories about UL including the omission of the Northern Distributor Road from the National Development Plan (NDP), and a major collaboration between the UL-based Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Pharmaceuticals and five of the world's leading BioPharma companies.

Best wishes,

Eoin