COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABILITY INCREASES

Beginning Monday, April 5, all Florida adults are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Over 108 million people in the US have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. On April 5, the vaccine became available to anyone over 18. COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus. The vaccines introduce your immune system to non-dangerous components of the virus, such as the well-known “spike” of the coronavirus, so it will recognize it later and prevent the virus from causing illness.

All current vaccines are effective against severe disease, hospitalization, and death. So far, data also suggests the vaccines are effective against variants of the virus.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, visit getvaccineanswers.org or bit.ly/CDCVaccineAnswers. To find local locations where you can receive the vaccine, visit bit.ly/HillsboroughVaccines.

REMININDERS

- Spring Break is April 12-18
- Nominate a deserving coworker for an Excellence Award at bit.ly/ExcellenceRecognition

LINDSEY HANSON
SAFETY & COMPLIANCE OFFICER
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Lindsey Hanson has been working for OAS for almost six years and also attended USF for both undergraduate and graduate school. Her current title is a Safety and Compliance Officer within EH&S.

Lindsey is responsible for ensuring that the labs in the College of Arts and Sciences and Public Health are following appropriate lab safety standards and waste guidelines. She is also responsible for running incident investigations conducted if someone in a lab gets injured. The investigations figure out what happened and how it can be prevented in the future.

As an alumna, Lindsey’s heart is in the university. Her favorite part about working in OAS is that she gets to work for the place that gave her the educational foundation to do her job. Lindsey brings an upbeat and positive attitude to her team. Her experience as a graduate student also helps her relate to the students working in the labs.

Outside of work, Lindsey spends a lot of her free time by or in the water. When she isn’t at the lake or beach with her three kids, Lindsey is an avid waterskier. More specifically, she does show skiing: a discipline of skiing where skiers perform numerous tricks and stunts, including human pyramids, jumps, and other spectacles. Currently, she skis for an amateur team she grew up on called the Tampa Bay Water Ski Show Team.

GET YOUR CAMPUS PASS
TAKE YOUR DAILY SYMPTOM TRACKER
REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS & EMPLOYEES
THE JOURNEY TO BECOMING A US CITIZEN: PETER GUTZKOW

Becoming a US citizen is the next step for most green card holders, especially those intending to stay in the US long-term. USF Grounds employee, Peter Gutzkow, recently completed the process of becoming a US citizen.

Peter grew up on a German Canadian army base in Canada, and always wanted to return after his family left in 1987. In 2006, Peter found a roofing company that helped German immigrants with the immigration process. Four weeks later he was hired by the company, and was able to move to Canada.

While Peter was working in Canada, he met his now wife, Paula, online. After taking a trip to meet her in Tampa, he knew they were a perfect match! After almost a year of dating, Peter moved to Florida on a K-1 Visa, meaning he and Paula had to get married within 90 days. In 2008 they got married and he received his first green card in 2009.

In Fall of 2010, shortly after starting at USF, Peter applied for and received a green card that was valid until October of 2021. Peter started the process of becoming a citizen in May of 2020, passed his citizenship test in February of 2021, and had his ceremony in March.

If he had to do it all over again he wouldn’t use a lawyer unless it was absolutely necessary. “There’s a few great groups out there that can help you out without the high costs” says Peter. If you are a green card holder considering becoming a citizen, Peter says “go ahead and do it, pay attention to everything and stay calm”.

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