

**Subject:** Update: College of Public Health Return to Campus July 10  
**Date:** Friday, July 10, 2020 at 4:16:21 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** CPH Faculty & Staff on behalf of Marsha Davis  
**To:** CPH-FACSTAFF@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU  
**Attachments:** return to campus-3.pdf

Dear Faculty and Staff:

We are now preparing to enter Phase 2 of reopening--prepared as we can be with cases and hospitalizations rising throughout Georgia and here in Athens. We are entering into uncharted territory, in a world that is again reminding us that public health and politics are incredibly intertwined. We will remain flexible and vigilant, always keeping health and safety in mind, and ethically doing the right thing. It was very good news this week that USG is now requiring that masks be worn by everyone when on campus.

Updates from our various working groups are outlined below. If you have specific questions, please email me and the chair(s) of the working group.

**Instruction Working Group: Chair, Erin Lipp working with Offices of IT and Academic Affairs**

Mark your calendars. We will be holding a Zoom session for faculty on July 15 3:00-4:00 to address your instructional questions. Look for an invite soon. Please send any questions that you would like discussed to [elipp@uga.edu](mailto:elipp@uga.edu).

Work is underway to prepare for Contingency 1 (social distancing) with a shift to Contingency 3 (moving on-line) at the Thanksgiving break. The social distancing plan will require a massive effort to ensure both physical distancing and technology in the classroom as well as instructional support to allow for the hybrid model of teaching. This will necessitate that some classes change rooms to meet appropriate square footage per person requirements or to rotate in-person students through the regular meeting times and space (this is the hybrid model where some students are in the classroom while others watch a streamed or recorded version of the class).

At UGA, some of the things being done include:

- Revised seating capacity database is now available for your use. You should be able to see the data here: <https://oir.uga.edu/data/oper/course/planning/>. You can also reach this page from the OIR website, under Reports and Analytics. Individual faculty can review their own classes. The easiest way to use this is through the "search by instructor name" box on the top right.
- Inventorying all Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) managed classroom space for video capacity to stream/record classes. Larger CTL managed spaces that are not already equipped with cameras will be provided with USB microphones to allow for enhanced sound quality should faculty need to record their lectures or discussions (e.g., without video or as voice over power point)
- Pedagogical support for on-line learning and hybrid models of instruction. CTL and UGA's Office of Online Learning (OOL) are offering a series of workshops and on-line resources this summer on best practices for on-line learning (<https://online.uga.edu/faculty-resources>) and strategies for switching from face to face instruction to on-line or in a hybrid mode ([Preparing](#)

[to Pivot](#)).

At CPH, we are:

- Completing our own inventory of all CPH (HSC and EHS) classrooms, labs, computer labs, non-traditional classrooms, and any possible open space (including outdoors) and tracking fall course enrollments in anticipation of guidance from UGA on new room capacities. We will reach out through departments to work with faculty on alternate arrangements for classrooms that may be needed. Please note that any changes in classrooms will need to be very carefully coordinated with university central scheduling, the college, and your departments. At the department level, in the spaces that you 'control' consider entrance and egress issues and how to avoid students gathering before and after classes. The college can help with signs and other visual reminders.
- Inventorying our CPH managed spaces for technology needs (e.g., USB microphones)
- Providing support for on-line and hybrid teaching models through CPH's OOL. Ivonne Marie Berges is hosting weekly zoom office hours as an open forum for faculty to discuss any questions associated with on-line learning (please contact [Ivonne.berges@uga.edu](mailto:Ivonne.berges@uga.edu)). A Faculty Learning Community for on-line learning began last week. CPH OOL is also coordinating with the UGA OOL to provide additional in-depth support for converting traditional classes to online (e.g., 'design sprints' and online module templates).
- Working on boilerplate language about the new requirement to wear masks in classroom to include in syllabi

Although we have another month until the Fall term, please consider some things that you can do in preparation:

- If you have medical concerns about returning to a traditional face to face classroom situation and have not already made an [accommodation request to HR](#), it's not too late; these can be submitted as needed.
- Take advantage of the resources that are being offered this summer for on-line and hybrid teaching (both at the University and College level). At minimum, we urge you to have some on-line content ready to go in case we are asked to make a quick switch to on-line learning (as we did this spring).
- Consider your end of term assessment given that we will be on-line after Thanksgiving. A traditional final may not be ideal; unlike spring, there is some lead time to consider other (creative) ways to assess learning. CPH OOL and UGA OOL can assist with good options for on-line assessment.
- Identify a 'back up' contact for fall classes in case you become ill or cannot meet your class. This person should be able to contact students and keep communication lines open (even if they cannot teach your class).

## **Student Survey**

We administered the Reopening Survey to all degree seeking students at the College of Public Health. The survey focused on COVID-19 and issues and concerns that the students see in the return to campus for Fall semester. A total of 300 students completed the survey. Most respondents were undergraduate students. We asked the students their opinions: (1) returning to campus; (2)

acquiring COVID-19; (3) risk of severe illness related to COVID-19; (4) wearing facemasks on campus and in classrooms; (5) lecture and online scenarios; (6) ability to conduct research; and (7) progress towards degree.

A few important things to note:

1. Students are overwhelmingly in favor of using masks and social distancing.
2. Students are worried about class structure and changes during the semester.
3. Students are worried about commute times and flexibility of classes moving from main campus and HSC on busses.

When moving through this Fall semester, there are some things that can help:

1. Be open and transparent about classes and expectations.
2. Be sure to be in constant communications about classes and changes throughout the semester that may occur.
3. Recognize that requests for accommodations may require flexibility and understanding.
4. If your class has a different model, please make sure that this is communicated well and in writing.
5. Ensure professors communicate within timely reason and make changes known.
6. Have clear designated rules and agendas for how classes will be run so that students won't be confused.

### **Research Working Group: Chair, Tim Heckman working with Office of Research**

If you have not yet completed your Research Resumption Plan (RRP) and submitted it for approval to your Department Head, please do so at your earliest convenience. Also, please continue to work remotely with Erika, Rebecca, and Amber as needed on pre- and post-award matters.

Finally, please continue to review the numerous COVID-19 funding opportunities notifications. Almost all CPH faculty have skills and expertise that lend themselves to conducting important COVID-19 research.

### **Outreach, Engagement, and Equity Working Group: Chair, Grace Bagwell Adams**

We continue to work on our Advisory Council with Athens Clark County coordinating messages around reopening. On Tuesday, July 7, Mayor and Commission of Athens-Clarke County passed a local ordinance that requires mask-wearing in public places in the County. The link can be found [here](#).

<https://athensclarkecounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/69391/22-Fifth-Declaration-to-Covid-19-Ordinance>

### **Preventative, Mitigation, and Monitoring Practices in Workplace: Co-Chairs, José Cordero and Mark Ebell**

UGA masks have been delivered. Check with your business manager to get those. Thermometers will be delivered next week. You'll need to hold the button down for four seconds to change to Fahrenheit; the default is Celsius.

As you saw in ArchNews, surveillance and screening will be supported by the implementation of a notification application (app) that was recently purchased by UGA, upon the recommendation of the

Medical Oversight Task Force after several weeks of research. The app is designed to provide a daily reminder to members of the campus community to check for symptoms prior to coming to campus each day. Self-reports of positive cases will automatically and securely notify the Georgia Department of Health to begin contact tracing and will simultaneously engage the appropriate University units to facilitate mitigation efforts, such as cleaning and disinfecting the impacted environments or providing support services to those in need. The app will be tested in Phase 2 for roll-out by Phase 3, and more details will be forthcoming. I am serving on the Medical Oversight Task Force. Dr. Cordero is serving on the Implementation Committee of the notification application.

Both the Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Lab and Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Lab are now certified to support human SARS-CoV-2 testing. Previously the labs were certified to accept and perform diagnostic tests on animal tissues and cultures, but this new certification grants them the ability to accept human samples. Veterinary Medicine is now gearing up to perform this service. I am working with the Provost and the Medical Oversight Task Force to develop a testing plan for the UGA community (faculty, staff, and students).

I am also serving on the Preventative Measures Advisory Board (PMAB). This group is responsible for providing guidance on risk assessment, controls for minimizing the spread of Covid-19, PPE, face coverings, social distancing, cleaning and disinfection methods, and other covid-19 related workplace health and safety questions and concerns. The PMAB Help Desk is provided as a resource to the campus community to receive requests for guidance and assistance related to decision making during the re-opening of UGA campuses ahead of the implementation of each phase of re-opening. You can submit your questions directly to me or [PMAB@uga.edu](mailto:PMAB@uga.edu).

### **Cleaning and Sanitation in Workplace Chair, Linda Moak**

- Sanitizing stations - Will be installed at various places across the Health Sciences Campus by the Facilities Management Division (FMD)
- Free standing hand sanitizers - Scheduled to arrive by the end of July. Sanitizer stands may be placed in departmental areas designated by your Unit Head/Business Manager.
- Additional Cleaning Supplies - Please contact your business manager if additional supplies are needed for your unit. These items may be purchased directly from Facilities Management Division (FMD) or another supplier within UGAMart. You will be responsible for cleaning your office and wiping down surface tops in your area.

### **Human Resources and Training: Chair, Tina Supakorndej**

- Phase 2 will begin on Monday, July 20, as supervisors, personnel who perform mission critical/time-sensitive functions and appropriate support personnel return to campus. Each employee should wait for notification from their unit supervisor before returning to work.
- Phase 3 will begin on Monday, August 10, when all faculty and staff return to campus for Fall Semester, unless they have been approved to telecommute.
- Telecommuting Policy: <https://policies.uga.edu/Human-Resources/Hours-worked/Telecommuting>
- CPH Telecommuting Agreement: <http://publichealth.uga.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CPH-Telecommuting-Form.06.23.20.pdf>

- Central HR has provided COVID-19 Related ADA Accommodation requests to the College, and they are currently under review. Employees will be notified by the Dean as soon as the request has been finalized.
- Protect UGA: COVID-19 Required Training for Supervisors. Some supervisors have not completed. Please complete soon. Log in to the PEP site with your UGA credentials at [pep.uga.edu](http://pep.uga.edu)
- The employee training module, a travel training module, and a student training module are still under development and will be made available at a later date.

### **Communications Working Group: Co-Chairs, Jessica Muilenburg (internal) and Grace Bagwell Adams (external) with Offices of Communication and Development**

Both the University and the College have been working independently to develop methods for communicating the requirement to wear a face covering on campus this Fall.

UGA's Division of Marketing & Communications (MarComm) is planning to a social media campaign to support wearing face coverings on campus. It has three messaging components to it:

- Posts featuring prominent UGA community members and leaders wearing a mask or face covering
- Posts featuring "Why I Mask" testimonials from faculty, staff, students and alumni
- Educational posts on how to wear a mask, why it's important, etc.

The College will be supporting this University-level campaign as well as building on our own. The College's social media campaign is similarly structured. Check out the posts from last weekend. Before you look--Who do you think got the most likes? After you look--Who should have gotten the most likes?

Our next steps are to focus on:

- Encouraging masks or face coverings any time in public
- Educating our followers on and off campus on urgent public health topics, including understanding personal risk, the differences between types of masks, understanding why masks are effective in slowing the spread of COVID-19, understanding case data trends and other topics that may arise as information changes.

We will be asking for your support throughout the campaign in two ways – (1) [submit a photo of yourself](#) masked up with a statement on why you mask, and (2) **follow and share** the College's campaign posts to help us reach more people. If you are not already following us, please do that now:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PublicHealthUGA/>; @PublicHealthUGA  
 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/publichealthuga>; @PublicHealthUGA  
 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/publichealthuga/>; publichealthuga

We need everyone to work together to protect ourselves, protect others, and protect Athens and our UGA community.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Marsha

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College of Public Health

# Return to Campus Survey

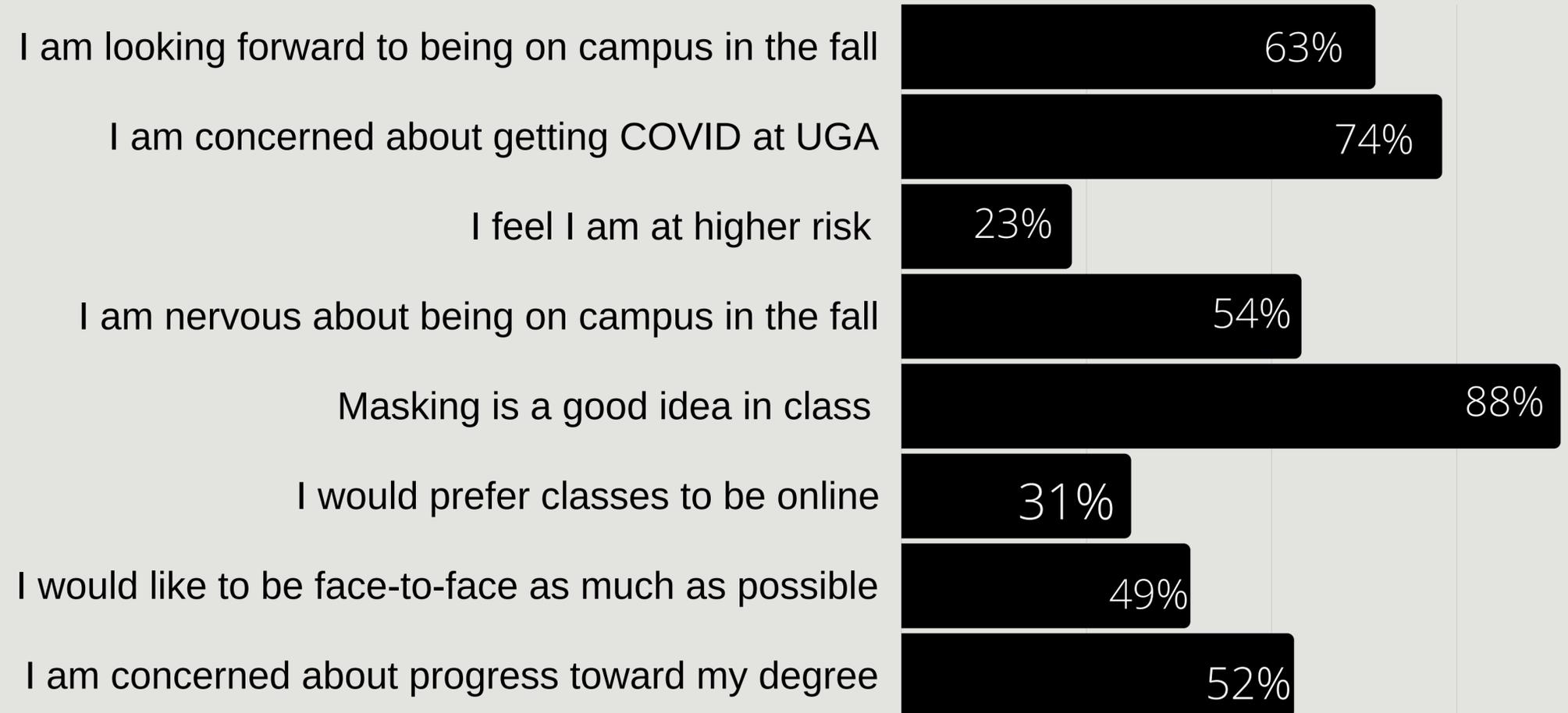
300 STUDENTS RESPONDED

UNDERGRADUATE 70%

MASTERS 17%

DOCTORATE 13%

ANSWERED STRONGLY AGREE OR AGREE



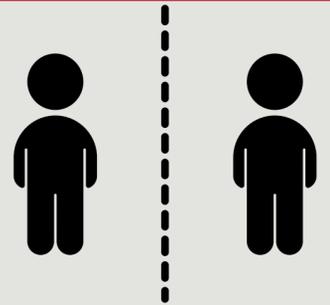
## Themes of Importance



Mandatory Masking



Communication



Social Distancing

## Implications

- **Enforcement** of masks and social distancing is imperative
- Plans for **student accommodations** that may not include disability services
- **Continued strong communication** from faculty to students
- **Plans for change** of class plans in case of a directive from USG
- Expectations of **flexibility throughout the semester**