

Moderator: Sarah Hokanson, Assistant Provost, PDPA (Professional Development & Postdoctoral Affairs)

Panel Members:

- Daniel Kleinman, Associate Provost for Graduate Affairs
- Carrie Landa, Director for Behavioral Medicine and Associate Director, Clinical Services
- Jeanne Kelley, Managing Director, International Students and Scholars Office
- Catherine Klapperich, Associate Dean for Research, ENG
- Hannah Nichols, Nurse Practitioner
- Scott Strothers, Senior Account Executive, Aetna Insurance

Opening remarks:

(Sarah Hokanson) I'm excited to bring everyone in dialogue today. We get that you're over the words and want to see action from us, dialogue leading to follow up. This will not be the end of this conversation.

- Guidelines for discussion:
 - Raise hand or use chat to use questions
 - Challenge ideas not people
 - Speak from your own experiences

Q: What is a close contact, how are we defining contact tracing?

A: Judy Platt: we are using the best evidence to make this definition

Close contacts definition used by state and federal guidelines

Contact tracing is when a public health official or health provide to investigate a positive case

- Think back, walk through day, tell us about who they were with, roommates, who they went to work with for day or two days before tested positive or first had symptoms
- Believe you can spread disease 48 hrs before symptoms begin (if don't have symptoms, use day you tested positive)
- Close contacts: within 6 ft for at least 15 mins, regardless of wearing a mask (unless wearing N95 respirator, then not close contact)
- Will reach out to close contacts, will not release name unless there is no other way → "You have been identified as a close contact"
- If you are a close contact, you will be advised to quarantine for 14 days and get tested

Q: What does this mean in the classroom setting?

A: There have been considerable efforts to de-densify classrooms

Q: With respect to UNC's closing this week, What are the different criteria that we're actively monitoring?

A: Judy Platt: Public dashboard from months of work,
There are a number of reasons why a threshold could be reached
There is a group that will be looked at often by team led by Bob Brown
UNC's dashboard publicly shows availability of PPE and quarantine/isolation housing

Q: Even if you're 6 ft away and wearing masks, there may still be particles floating around the room, how are we thinking about this as an institution?

A: Judy Platt: I can lead this off talking about masks and facial coverings policy
In the same way that CDC didn't have mask protocols before, we will update protocols as needed to reflect best public health guidance that we had at the time.

Q: If a TF is partnering with a prof who is teaching remotely is the TF expected to be teaching in person?

A: Ernie Perez: Because of the way we've put together the program, we do expect that the TF to be on campus if the instructor is remote so that there is an in-person option

Q: Who decides this? Are students expected to stand in an empty classroom?

A: Ernie Perez: Even though the faculty member may have a workplace adjustment, TFs would have to talk with their faculty members and department about that because the discussions may work well to be in person

A: Deborah Breen: The modality is such that the TF is independent of an instructor, and may not be required to be in person

A: Linda Jerrett: TFs are eligible to have a tech moderator

Q: Does the number of students in class effect who can have a tech moderator?

A: Linda Jerrett: Number is 20 students in class where you are eligible to have a tech moderator

A: Ernie Perez: baseline is 20 for moderator to be given to faculty moderator. There will be training

Q: Sarah Hokanson: Just to confirm, if an instructor is teaching remotely, the course will be remote and the TF would not be expected to teach in person? If the class is greater than 20 people?

A: Erin/Linda: The class will have to be designated to be remote, check with your Dean/department

A: Lectures and discussion settings will be treated independently, so just because a lecture is remote does not mean that a discussion will be remote

Discussion on room ventilation:

- Michael Donovan: HVAC systems and hepa filters will be updated/installed
- We are going room by room and making sure they meet our standards

- Layouts are designated room by room
- We've enhanced our ventilation systems (MERV 13 vs. MERV 8 filters)
- Standard filter is MERV 8 to prevent outside pollen, etc from getting into ventilation system
- We have enhanced filtration to scrub air
- We've admitted more outside air to get fresh air in the building
- MERV 8 is not intended to filter out fine particles like COVID
- MERV 13 is recommended by CDC

Q: Why are we even doing this? What is the point of not just going remote?

A: Daniel Kleinman: At the undergraduate level, we are fundamentally a residential university. In the absence of a pandemic, our teaching is conducted in person. During the pandemic, we want to continue to teach as much as possible as is safe.

Q: Where do we get information about workplace adjustments, what classrooms you'd be in, whether you are remote or not, who will be in the classroom?

A: From Dean, department, instructor of record

Q: How will there be effective movement between classrooms?

A: Michael Donovan: expecting people to wear masks

A: Bob Whitfield: Buildings are different, appointed someone who is familiar with building to look at how people navigate through that building

Q: Enforcement -- What types of enforcement can/should TFs take on? In the moment of a classroom incident, in particular?

A: Deborah Breen: Steps are in the memo, ask the student to wear mask or social distance in a "firm but polite way"

Departments are being supplied with an emergency supply of mask, don't know how these are getting to faculty or TFs

Ask them politely, give them an emergency supply mask, if they refuse to comply, dismiss class, report to Dean

A: Bob Whitfield: Bandanas, gators, etc do not comply -- this will be updated in the Back2BU guide shortly

A: Deborah Breen: they are required to sign an agreement, they will be disciplined if they don't follow rules

Q: The care and support of undergraduate students has been taken, but why has that consideration not been given to graduate students? Please address the lack of value that graduate students are feeling

A: Daniel Kleinman: Although, I understand the anger and anxiety that graduate students are feeling, I feel that's a fundamentally unfair question. If we didn't care about grad students and faculty, we would just put people in classrooms without signing attestations, without updating filters, wearing masks, etc

- I expect that things will continue to move forward
- Regarding the recently published policy on posthumous degrees, this had nothing to do with the pandemic. Unfortunately every year a student dies for other reasons such as a car accident, terminal illness, suicide, etc, this is why this policy is necessary -- many other universities have this policy. That policy has been in the works for a year, the timing was unfortunate, this was inherently a communication problem.

Q: How can students in compliance share their status with TFs if they do not have a smartphone?

A: Linda Jerrett: IS&T is prepared to work with Dean of Students office to provide students with mobile device for the semester

Q: How will we know who is in person vs. remote students?

A: You will have general info but students will get to decide if they want to be in person or remote for different sections of this course

Q: How will students be able to “shop” for classes during the first week of classes? Are students encouraged to shop only remotely so as not to exceed the classroom capacities?

A: Don't know, use online capabilities

Q: How will we know what testing category we are?

A: Daniel: most graduate students are probably category 2. You should be receiving this information soon

Q: Have there been staff town halls?

A: Sarah Hokanson: I think so, but my office does not oversee these groups, I do note their importance and vulnerability. I can't speak for how they are being communicated with but it was important for us to communicate with you.