

From: [Mueller, Bruce](#)
Subject: Update from the COP Dean's Office for Faculty & Staff
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Office of the Dean

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September 1, 2020

Dear Faculty & Staff,

School started yesterday and overall things went about as planned. We had some tech glitches that Brian Vanderziel and the faculty are working through. I walked through the building and found that only a handful of P2 students attended the 8 AM Med Chem in person class. I am not sure if that is a function of it being at 8 AM, or if students are being very cautious at the beginning of the semester. P1 students are signing up to attend Pharm Sci and the Wellness elective at a very high rate, so I think we are going to give it a couple of weeks before we declare victory (or defeat) with respect to in-person teaching.

There was a protest on the diag yesterday about the university's decision to have in person teaching this semester. In a meeting with Deans, the following rationale(s) were offered for President Schlissel's decision to start with (and stick with) in-person teaching. I thought they were interesting and I wanted to share them with you (they appear below in the form that I transcribed as fast as I could!):

- Most students already are in AA and going remote won't clear students from AA. The vast majority of students have already signed leases for the year here in AA. We learned this last Winter semester. The structure of classes conducted in safe environments will be better for students than having them at big parties during the daytime.
- Who is disadvantaged by going to remote teaching? These groups:
 - * Freshman: they have few alternatives, many are minors and have nowhere to go if dorms are closed. Furthermore, they probably need the structure of in person classes the most.
 - * "At-risk" students: UM has a responsibility to economically disadvantaged students who depend on dorms (paid by financial aid or scholarships) to have shelter and food. Closing dorms puts them at risk.
 - * International students are in a similar situation. Where do they go?

We will have to see if the current ~70% remote teaching is worth it compared to the 100% remote option, but I wanted you to see his thought process. All I know is that many of you have spent many weeks preparing for some in-person teaching, so I hope we can stick with that.

Another aspect of the protest related to faculty or GSI's being forced to teach in person. I won't speak for other units, but this did not happen at the College of Pharmacy. Every faculty member and GSI was surveyed about their ability/willingness to participate in live teaching. **We accommodated every request that was made to teach remotely.** I should also mention that many of you indicated that you preferred to teach in person. Those requests also were honored if the course pedagogy supported in person teaching.

Finally, COVID concerns dominate our thoughts. I, along with other deans, pressed administration to ensure that we were notified if someone who contracted COVID attended one of our in person classes. I am happy to report that class instructors will be notified, as will the classmates of the infected student. Obviously the identification of the name of that student will be kept anonymous, and **you should not be releasing the name of any student who tested positive to COVID for all the obvious HIPAA and FERPA reasons.** The process for notification is outlined below.

I am in the final stages of my "listening tour". I am really enjoying learning from each of you. As always, I have an open-door policy, even if almost none of you are here to walk through it. (I do faithfully answer emails though!)

BAM

COVID-RELATED INFORMATION

❖ **University COVID-19 Concerns:** The university has created a reporting line for COVID-19 concerns — **734-647-3000** — to be used by the campus community and Ann Arbor residents to report non-emergency compliance issues. Concerns reported the phone line will be addressed by ambassador program staff who will call or text responsible parties. After hours this number will be answered by the U-M Police Department.

❖ **University's Contact Tracing:**

- **U-M COVID-19 Dashboard:** If you are interested in the positivity rate for students returning to campus, you can visit the university dashboard at <https://campusblueprint.umich.edu/dashboard/>.



- **U-M's Notification Process For When a Student Tests Positive for COVID-19**

Low-Risk Exposure: If you've attended an in-person or hybrid class with a student diagnosed with COVID-19 at the University Health Service, you will receive an email from the University Health Service alerting you of the situation along with instructions on the next steps.

High-Risk Exposure: If you've been in close contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 at the University Health Service, you will be contacted directly by the U-M investigators with instructions on potential exposure, provide education about quarantining, assist with resources to successfully complete their quarantine, and initiate symptom tracking. Close contacts will be instructed to:

- * Stay home for 14 days after their last contact with an infected individual.
- * Check their temperature at least daily and watch for symptoms of COVID-19.
- * Stay away from people who are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19.
- * If they develop symptoms, the contact should call [UHS](#) (students) or [Occupational Health Services](#) (staff/faculty) and they will be counseled to seek medical care.

- **Faculty & Staff Details:**

Information on how Washtenaw county is conducting contract tracing can be found here: <https://www.washtenaw.org/3170/Contact-Tracing>

Students who are tested outside of the University system, are required to report their testing results to UHS and these results are also reported to the Washtenaw County Public Health Department who will conduct the contract tracing. **You should not specifically name the student as testing positive to your class.** If you learn that a student has tested COVID positive at a site other than UHS and are concerned that the student did not report this to UHS, you are encouraged to report on their behalf so that contact tracing can begin.

Q: What do employees need to do if they are diagnosed with, or suspect they might have, COVID-19?

A: All employees who are diagnosed with, or suspect they might have, COVID-19 must contact the [Occupational Health Services](#) hotline by calling 734-764-

8021 and stay at home unless they require medical attention. This applies to employees on all campuses and in Michigan Medicine ([read additional guidance for Michigan Medicine employees](#)). Follow the [CDC recommendations about how to prevent transmission to others](#).

Q: What should I do if an employee under my supervision or co-worker is diagnosed with COVID-19?

A: First, remember that the employee will appreciate hearing your support while they recover from the illness. You should clarify whether they have received any specific guidance from the public health department related to others in the workplace.

All employees who are diagnosed with COVID-19 must contact the [Occupational Health Services](#) hotline by calling 734-764-8021 and stay at home unless they require medical attention ([read additional guidance for Michigan Medicine employees](#)).

Next, you can anticipate that other employees may have heard about, or suspect that, someone is out sick with the COVID-19 related illness. They will understandably have a concern when they hear about a colleague who is ill. There will be a concern for the colleague as well as concern over a potential exposure risk to themselves or others.

You may acknowledge that there is an individual in the unit who has tested positive for COVID-19, without identifying the individual. You may also inform employees that guidance is being sought from the county health department to determine if there is an indication for quarantine as a precautionary measure.

If you are in a health care setting, additional requirements to assess risk may apply and the Occupational Health reporting procedures should be followed. If employees are able to work from home and aren't already doing so, you can offer that as an option while waiting for the county health department guidance.

Read [the U-M Environment, Health & Safety Department's COVID-19 Exposure and Testing Guidance for Staff and Supervisors](#)

- **Contact Tracing Protocols (from UMOR)**

- * Symptomatic employees should contact Occupational Health Services (OHS)

at 734-764-8021.

- * If the employee is referred for COVID-19 testing and tests positive, those results are communicated to the employee. OHS will then provide followup instructions and return-to-work guidance.
- * The employee also is provided with status information to give her or his supervisor and a notification process for other employees.
 - o Medical confidentiality and privacy will be maintained. Contacts will only be told they have been exposed to a positive case, but the identity of that case will not be directly revealed.
- * Symptomatic employees who are tested and diagnosed at a location other than one designated by OHS must report their test type and diagnosis to OHS.
- * They also must report their expected absence to their supervisor and should not return to their workplace until cleared by OHS to do so.
- * Positive test results are shared with EHS, the Washtenaw County Health Department and Risk Management.
- * Positive tests are tracked daily by Risk Management and provided to the Office of the Vice President for Research for reporting in aggregate. Confidentiality is maintained and this information will not be made part of the employees' central personnel record.
- * Please refer to the [U-M Workplace Contact Tracing Protocol](#) for further guidance on how to respond in the workplace when an employee is awaiting test results or tests positive for COVID-19.
- * Based on the university's return-to-work attestation, employees are required to cooperate with information and prompt communication necessary to complete contact tracing.

❖ **Changes to the University Bus System:** Logistics, Transportation & Parking (LTP) is making major changes to care for you and the community while riding U-M buses. The plan, developed in collaboration with the College of Engineering (COE) and public health experts, includes a significant overhaul of the campus bus network. The team of experts conducted modeling to achieve a system that meets essential travel needs daily and peak demand, while also addressing passenger safety. Here are a few reminders, plus some new changes, which were implemented today:

- **Face coverings continue to be required for the safety of all riders and bus drivers:** No mask, no service.

- **Bus routes redesigned to approximately 15 minutes or less:** The Blue Bus routes have been completely overhauled to limit trip duration. The biggest changes include direct bus service between the Central Campus Transit Center and Pierpont Commons on North Campus with more frequent buses at peak times. Medical campus express routes to commuter parking areas are approximately 15 minutes or less. Please see the new [U-M Bus Route Guide](#).
- **North-East Shuttle service change for fall semester:** The North-East Shuttle route, due to its length and lower utilization, was eliminated in the system redesign. A portion of the North-East shuttle route was utilized by community patients. To address this potential service gap, a new [on-demand service for patients](#) began today.
- **Riders per bus reduced by nearly half:** LTP has increased the bus frequency and the university has reduced class sizes to allow a reduction in riders per bus. Seated passengers only on the bus and no standing will reduce the riders per bus by nearly half.

For more details of these changes, [click here](#).

FACULTY

- ❖ **Senate Assembly Representatives:** Amanda Garner will serve as the Senate Assembly representative and Dan Hertz will serve as the Senate Assembly alternate representative. Their term will be from 09/01/2020 to 08/31/2023.
- ❖ **Transparent Face Masks:** We have some clear face masks available for any faculty who are teaching in-person classes and would like to try that as an alternative to cloth. Please contact the facilities team if you would like to get some. We have a limited supply and are prioritizing for in-person teaching.

STAFF

- ❖ **Administrative Staff Schedules and Contact Information:** If your contact information, work schedule, or work location is changing for Fall term, please update your information [HERE](#).
- ❖ If you are borrowing a **webcam and/or headset with microphone** for remote work, please remember to complete our loan agreement form if you haven't already done so: <https://pharmacy.umich.edu/mycop/it-site-computer-loan-agreement>. If you have ordered a webcam and haven't yet received it, we do still have some on order that should arrive soon.

YOUR WELL-BEING

- ❖ The temperatures will be really nice this week. Time to get outside for some exercise and fresh air! Walking with others using social distancing is a great way to exercise and meet with others. Invite someone you know to go on a walk with you!
- ❖ Are you interested in participating as a study subject for COVID vaccine?<https://umhealthresearch.org/#studies/HUM00185585>

Sincerely,
Bruce A. Mueller
Interim Dean and Professor of Clinical Pharmacy

Electronic Mail is not secure, may not be read every day, and should not be used for urgent or sensitive issues