



Promoting the safest possible return and continuation of work and school for UF faculty, staff and students by developing a unified, coordinated, evidence-based program



November 19, 2020 Faculty Senate: Spring Semester Proposal



Background

- Our approach to controlling COVID on campus has allowed the university to continue its three-part mission of education, research, and service.
- We have continued to learn as well as build capacity in terms of testing, contact tracing, and policy implementation.
- We now have more tools in terms of capacity and experience as we head into the holidays and the Spring Semester.





Components Comprehensive Plan for Spring Semester 2021

- Surveillance testing (adding mandatory targeted groups),
- Symptom screening questionnaire
- Targeted testing,
- Wastewater epidemiology,
- Disease investigation/contact tracing,
- Data management, and
- Operational surveillance studies.





Epidemiologic Curve COVID-19 on Campus

Affiliate and Contact Tracing



Proposal



Proposal Spring Semester 2021

We propose mandatory testing all students in:

- Residence halls,
- Greek Life,
- ROTC, and
- Face-to-face classroom instruction

for the first three incubation periods of the semester (6 weeks) and then reducing the testing frequency if positivity rates drop to 3% or less.





Spring Semester Proposal Continued

- Testing will be available to faculty and staff involved in face-to-face classes as well on a voluntary basis.
- Exclusion: anyone who has tested positive within the preceding 90 days through UF Health.
- Enforcement will be in the form of being "not cleared" for campus if a student does not test within 48 hours of the two-week mark since their last UF Health test.
- Students will remain with "clear for campus" status while waiting for their surveillance test result.
- All testing will be saliva based.



Justification and Rationale



Justification and Rationale Need for Adding Surveillance

- There are four main reasons for adding surveillance testing for the spring semester.
 - These are the need for preventing outbreaks rather than reacting to them,
 - a change in attitudes towards COVID-19 among some at-risk student groups and others,
 - increased face-to-face classroom instruction,
 - and increased testing capacity.



Justification and Rationale Data

• We will go with mandatory testing of higher risk groups identified from our experience in the fall.

Fall Positivity Rate in Parentheses

- Greek life students (26%),
- ROTC (21%),
- Students in residence halls (8%),
- Students in face-to-face classrooms (6%).
- This compares to a positivity rate of 3% to less than 1% for all other members of the UF community.



Additional Considerations

- Cooler temperatures and increased indoor activities and current trends in cooler climates
- COVID fatigue
- Faculty resistance to face-to-face instruction
- Testing capacity and logistics

• Vaccines!!

Summary



Mission UF Health Screen, Test & Vaccinate Program

Mission:

To promote the safest possible return to normal for UF faculty, staff and students in the face of an unprecedented pandemic by maintaining a coordinated evidence-based program including testing, contact tracing, and vaccination.