Q&A Faculty Teams Live – The Green and Gold Promise
August 6, 2020

Questions about campus safety

What number of cases would pass the threshold to close campus?
The UVMStrong group will monitor a number of variables and provide guidance on what activities are permitted under what conditions. There is no single variable that will determine a change in campus operations.

During the semester will students have to swipe their CATcards to get into buildings for their classes?
Classroom buildings will be unlocked weekdays from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Building access will be controlled by CatCard after normal business hours.

How are you making sure that students or faculty who have exemptions for mask wearing due to medical conditions don't unfairly get discriminated against (e.g. being told to leave class, being harassed or reported to student conduct board)?
It is possible we could have a student, staff or faculty member who has a condition or disability that would necessitate not wearing a face mask; however, based on the information we have to date, those individuals will be working and/or studying at home or remotely.

How does the student health & safety training and green and gold promise apply to graduate students who have already completed the UVM VOSHA COVID training?
Any graduate student coming to campus for any reason, including to teach, do research, take in person or mixed courses or use facilities (such as the library) must follow all of the state Safe and Healthy Return to Campus Guidelines including completion of VOSHA training, signing the Green and Gold Promise, wearing a face covering, observing social distancing, washing hands frequently and complying with the Covid-19 testing protocol required of all on campus students.

If a class meets outside, and all members are at least 6 feet apart, will everyone still need to be masked? Is there a campus directive that differs from the governor's directive?
Face coverings are required whenever you are interacting with another person, indoors or outdoors.

Is it permissible to sit by oneself on an outdoor bench and eat lunch (and so necessarily remove one's mask)?
Face coverings are not required if you are taking a break to eat or drink and can maintain a 6-foot distance from other people.

When the library access for at-home students is removed, does that include online access or only in person access? Does this include graduate students who exercise a stay at home option?

Undergraduate at-home students and graduate students who do not come to campus will have [remote access to the library](#).

Will there be restrictions on the number of people allowed in spaces like the library and the Davis Center at one time? How will this be managed?
Occupancy limits have been established for our large public buildings. Occupancy numbers will be monitored at building entrances.

Will you advise students to allow extra time to arrive at in-person classes to ensure proper distancing at entrances?
We will provide ample social distancing guidance to students. It will be helpful for faculty members to reinforce our messaging by providing guidance specific to the classroom setting.

Does the state limit of 25 for gatherings apply to UVM classes?
No.

Everything on campus is based upon a strict social distancing requirement from what we have heard. Why does it seem like there is no provision or allowable contact between roommates, housemates, and partners while on campus? Many spaces are being set with a single chair per table, it seems like even reasonable household/close contact connections are forbidden at UVM.
We will all have to hold each other accountable for safe and healthy on-campus behaviors. It will be impossible for observers to know whether close contact represents a household interaction or a social distancing violation.

If we are taking some classes and elect the at-home student option as an employee will we have access to our Cat Card or are we going to run into access issues?
This may depend on the buildings you need to access for work purposes. If access issues arise, please alert your supervisor and contact the [CATcard Service Center](#).

Outreach and other efforts are great - but once violations are made on campus or in the community, the damage is done in terms of potential viral exposure. Vermont is the only state in the US that is in the 'green zone' - students will be coming in from all over. How can UVM actually say that students, faculty, staff, and community members will be safe?
We value the health and safety of our community – at UVM, in Burlington, and statewide. We have instituted a phased approach for our return this fall and have developed a Return to Campus plan that meets or exceeds the plan developed by the governor-appointed committee for the return to in-person education. The success of our plan will depend on our collective choices and actions.

<u>**Questions about the larger community**</u>

I'm concerned about balancing the rights of off campus students who are renters and residents of the communities they are living in and should be allowed as a member of the community to hold gatherings that fall within the governor's guidelines, but still might be reported for violating green/gold.

We value the health and safety of our community – at UVM, in Burlington, and statewide. It is true that we have developed a Return to Campus plan that, in some cases, exceeds the plan developed by the governor-appointed committee. We believe this is necessary to support a successful fall semester and to help safeguard the health of the campus and Burlington communities.

Is UVM at some point not going to continue letting the city/residents blame our students for all of the covid violations? The Beach is packed with out of town partiers, Church Street with middle age diners, bars with those over 21 of whom most aren't students, local communities have baseball leagues with dozens in each dugout without masks, hundreds watching without distancing.
At Burlington City Council and Neighborhood Planning Assembly meetings UVM representatives have discussed the importance of collaboration with norming COVID-19 safety regulations throughout the City, especially when new residents are moving in. If current residents of all ages are following the COVID-19 regulations that sends a message that the City takes it seriously. UVM has been working with City partners to develop a plan for all neighborhoods around COVID-19 regulations and late-night activity. This work is taking place through the Burlington Community and Economic Development Office's The Neighbor Project (TNP), which includes quality-of-life in all neighborhoods.

What are the plans for working with other universities/colleges in the area related to off-campus students in the community?
Champlain College participates in UVM's Community Coalition, which is made up of on- and off-campus representatives dedicated to the health and safety of neighborhoods. This group has come up with proposals and actions for challenges with off-campus student behavior. The Office of Student and Community Relations is in close contact with Champlain College administrators and has worked collaboratively on an Off -Campus Guide, the Spring Move Out Project, and Off Campus Living Workshops.

What is the current status of the plan with the city of Burlington? The Mayor announced that there was no plan in place yet?
The University does have a re-opening plan that exceeds the guidelines set out by Governor Scott for Institutions of Higher Education. You can access the plan here: https://www.uvm.edu/newsstories/news/uvm-safe-and-healthy-return-campus-plan

How are the warnings that students receive for violating the Green and Gold promise being tracked? Is there a central place so that they don't receive lots of repeat warnings without further action?
Verbal on-the-spot reminders are tracked if the person issuing the reminder informs the Center for Student Conduct through an incident report form. If a person submits an incident report to the Center for Student Conduct, a record will be created, followed up on, and tracked.

Questions about faculty

In the last faculty session there was talk of impact bargaining for extra pay for Faculty who might be putting in extra pre-term work to learn the new equipment. How does that affect the feelings of cohesion around campus where the non-represented staff just took a paycut.

Asking for what is essentially a bonus while relying upon our staff who are working for less might lead to increased tension.
Ground rules prohibit any comment while bargaining is underway.

Questions about graduate students

We've been told there is no "at home option" for graduate students. Can you please clarify?
A form will be available by August 14th to be turned in to the Graduate College by August 24th. Graduate students will be asked to attest that they have only remote course work and no on campus research or teaching activities and that they will not come on campus for any reason other than to go to the Center for Health and Wellbeing. When that has been approved, the Graduate College will put the "at home" designation on their Banner record and they will be excused from the Covid-19 testing protocol. Failure to comply with the attestation will be adjudicated through the Center for Student Conduct. Additional information can be found in the Fall 2020 Learning options for graduate students document sent to students on July 20.

Questions about instruction

Is there recommended text for syllabi to address Green and Gold Promise expectations and disciplinary responses to violations in the classroom?
A new syllabi template that addresses many COVID-19 related issues is in development and will be released soon.

Questions about testing

Already there are reports of 2 basketball players at UVM who have tested positive. Will sports be suspended to help keep the community safe? How is contact tracing going to take place?
By NCAA rule, Men's and Women's Basketball are the only two UVM teams permitted to participate in formal team practice. The teams began activity on July 20 after all student-athletes met the state-mandated quarantine requirements. All activity is being conducted according to NCAA Resocialization of Sport protocols which require daily symptom monitoring, regular COVID-19 testing and a phased return to training beginning with small-group, non-contact activity. More information is available here. Future activity will be guided by NCAA regulations and university leadership. Contact tracing is conducted by the Student Health Services under the direction of the Vermont Department of Health.

As faculty taking a course as a CDE student, do I need to participate in the periodic student COVID testing requirements?
Faculty and staff members will have access to testing but will not be required to test unless they are taking in-person classes this semester and will then be required to follow the same testing protocol as other students.

What are the testing expectations for graduate students who have only remote or online classes (no on-campus classes) and have about the grad student who does classes on line but

has clinical or internship experiences off campus (some in towns as far away as Thetford and Manchester). Are they going to be expected to drive to campus from those communities just to get tested once per week? Are there exemptions?

Graduate students who have only remote or online courses and no other reason to be on campus may select a Remote Option for fall, which will exempt them from the campus testing protocol. A remote section will be set up in the Schedule of Courses for those with distant clinical or internship experiences that have no on campus requirements. Dissertation, thesis, or project research that can be accomplished remotely will be accommodated with advisor approval. Additional information can be found in the remote option form and the fall 2020 Learning options for graduate students document sent to students on July 20.

How will faculty teaching in person find out about a student who tests positive if they don't tell us themselves?

If a student or employee tests positive, contact tracing protocols will be employed and individuals who have had meaningful contact will be notified.

Initially, we were told that students were going to be tested more frequently (2 times per week) that doesn't seem to be case. Throughout the semester what is the plan for frequent testing of students? Are you planning to change the protocol?

The current overall testing protocol includes:

Pre-Arrival Test	Day -4 (four days before arriving on campus)
Arrival Test	Day 0 (upon arrival either to move into a residence hall or, for those living off campus, the first day of classes)
Week-One Test	Day 7

Weekly for up to five weeks depending on the student's arrival. At that point, UVMStrong will consider an analysis of the data generated by the earlier tests and advice from our medical/epidemiology advisors to determine the frequency of testing going forward.

Is there any information available about the pre-testing method students are asked to do - its false negative and false positive rates? It appears to be a very new method and the vendor site says they do not yet have metrics to evaluate how good the method is.

The RT-qPCR test is very sensitive for the presence of SARS-CoV-2, with 98% of tests providing either a positive or a negative result, and only 2% of tests providing an inconclusive result. The test can detect fewer than 10 copies of viral genes per milliliter of saliva, and can detect the presence of virus in the saliva within 2 days of infection and up to 28 days after infection. Across all known gene sequences of SARS-CoV-2, the test detects the ones in the genes of interest ~100% of the time, making it highly sensitive and specific for those genes.

Currently, the false positive and false negative rates for this specific test cannot be calculated, because the lab and Vault do not receive data on what happens to patients after they receive a test. We do not know if patients with a negative test go on to develop symptoms and subsequently receive a positive test result (false negative) or if an uninfected patient with a positive result then goes on to have another test that's negative (false positive). However, emerging data about false negative rates of saliva-based COVID tests are showing that the false

negative rate for saliva-based tests may be closer to 10%, which is significantly lower than those of nasopharyngeal swab-based tests, which are in the 25-35% range.