



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
GUND INSTITUTE
FOR ENVIRONMENT

Farrell Hall and COVID-19

March 16, 2020

Hi all,

As COVID-19 continues to spread, we at the Gund Institute need to do our part to reduce the infection rate and “flatten the curve” on the pandemic.

So, here are some changes at Farrell Hall, effective immediately. Read it all, please. Students and postdocs, please check in with your advisor to make sure they are aware. And everyone, please keep checking [UVM's COVID-19 webpage](#) for updates as this situation unfolds.

First, work from home. I strongly encourage everyone working in Farrell Hall to work from home as much as possible. For now, the building is still available to you if you want/need to work in your office. But the more we work at home, the more we reduce potential transmission, which is the entire game. I will be working from home for the next two weeks. Here are UVM resources for that: <https://www.uvm.edu/it/kb/article/working-remotely/>

Second, don't gather. Even if you do come to Farrell, minimize the gathering you do. I know this runs against the entire point of the Gund Institute and our recent move to Farrell. But during the outbreak, it's really important. We will pause the communal coffee breaks. And we will stop scheduling meetings in our conference rooms (other than the couple of defenses already scheduled).

Third, doors. Because very few people (including staff) will be at work, Farrell Hall's doors will be locked all day now. You'll need your keycard to get in at all times. Nora still plans to be in her office some of every day, but that may change.

Fourth, prevent transmission. Wash hands, cover coughs, keep 2m distance from others, and of course seek immediate advice if you start feeling ill. There are lots of guidance sources on this.

Finally, spread the word. We can help get others behaving the same way, especially young people who may feel less vulnerable. This is not about your own health - it's about your role in the broader system and reducing risk for vulnerable people. Very Gund-y themes indeed (and cool simulations [here](#)).

Take care, everyone.

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