Return to Farrell Hall Update #1.5
From: Taylor Ricketts, Gund Director
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Hi all,

This is a quick and specific update on Farrell Hall reopening. We have submitted our plan to UVM and are still awaiting approval. Once that happens, we'll share the full plan with you all. But in the meantime, it's worth conveying a few small updates.

The plan outlined below remains roughly what we submitted to UVM.

The big exception is item #3. Based on responses to our survey, there are few enough people wanting to work in Farrell Hall that we will <u>not</u> need to establish a shift system. This will be good news for many, so I wanted to share it now.

We won't be able to confirm our move-in date until we get approval from UVM, but we will establish times ahead of that date for people to come to Farrell Hall and either move or collect their belongings safely.

Please pay close attention to the testing requirements for all students, including tests 5 days before arrival and on arrival day, even for those already living in Burlington. Information on 'student preparation and arrival', plus lots more, is at UVM's [return to campus website](#).

Thanks, stay safe, and more soon.

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Farrell Hall Reopening Plan (from [Farrell Hall Update #1](#))

Vermont's and UVM's rules are still evolving, so we will be working all summer to develop and refine our plans. However, they are likely to involve many of the following elements:

1. It will always be OK to work from home. For those who want to continue doing so, we will work hard to engage and support you in Institute culture and activities.

2. We will limit the total number of people in the building at one time and reduce seating density. We intend to have only one person per office at a time (perhaps two in the largest rooms).

3. Depending on how many people want to work in Farrell (again, see survey link below), we may establish two consistent "shifts" of people, who alternate working at Farrell for a week and at home for a week. This system reduces density, eases contact tracing, and reduces transmission.

4. We will close, restrict, or carefully manage the use of public spaces. These include the coffee nook, the lunch area upstairs, lobby tables, the copy room, the 2nd floor kitchen, and bathrooms.

5. We will likely keep only the first-floor conference room open for meetings, with clear guidelines for use and sanitizing. Other conference rooms may be repurposed into offices to further reduce density.

6. Everyone will be required to check in with Nora upon arrival each day, and to wear a mask in hallways and public spaces. Visitors to Farrell Hall will be discouraged, and will have to stay in particular parts of the building.

7. We are working with UVM Facilities to ensure that Farrell's HVAC system provides safe air circulation. So far, I'm impressed and encouraged, and I'm grateful that we've recently moved to a modern building!

I know, this sounds like a different Farrell Hall, but like everyone, we need to make adjustments to keep ourselves safe. We will be revisiting these measures continuously and revising them as we can. I really hope our community rallies to develop new and innovative ways to build community under these new circumstances.

On that note, we are already making **several investments to improve interactions** at the Gund Institute during the pandemic.

- We will put a few nice picnic tables outside to facilitate outdoor meetings.
- We are hoping to renovate the upstairs kitchen to make it more open and safer to share.
- We're investing in new technology in our conference rooms to better enable remote participation in meetings and talks.

We plan to continue a full schedule of Gund Teas, which will likely be virtual. We're also planning several [MacMillan Scholars in Residence](#), through our new virtual option. (Reminder, please continue to nominate great Tea speakers by contacting Nora.)