

**Q&A Faculty Teams Live – Opening, Academic, and Research Updates and Reminders
March 18, 2021**

Questions about Health and Safety

Is anyone at UVM advocating for the vaccination of faculty and staff, especially faculty teaching in-person this spring?

University officials are working closely with the Vermont Department of Health. We have, and will continue to advocate strongly for the vaccination of our community members.

Is there any plan to have a vaccine clinic on campus, particularly for our students?

The university has offered to host a vaccine clinic on campus. At this time, the state controls both the vaccine supply and the vaccination process. If the state asks UVM to host a vaccination site, we are prepared to respond positively and quickly.

Will UVM move toward using the 3-foot social distance in classrooms guideline consistent with CDC guidance?

At this time, any changes in the university's guidelines will be directed by the state of Vermont, not the CDC. We anticipate that the state will issue revisions in the coming months, and are hopeful that the distancing requirements will be reduced for the fall 2021 semester. There are no plans for spring 2021 changes at this time.

Is UVM considering requiring vaccinations for students, faculty, and staff before a full return to campus, with exceptions for those with medical reasons to not get one?

The current vaccines are being distributed under an emergency use authorization (EUA) and cannot be required. When the vaccine status moves beyond EUA, any proposed requirements will be considered thoughtfully. Any requirements for faculty and staff would need to be bargained with the relevant bargaining units.

For those groups that are vaccinated is there any flexibility in travel and social distancing in the classrooms with masks on?

The vast majority of our campus is not yet vaccinated. At this time we are not relaxing the university's travel, masking, and distancing requirements in the classroom and elsewhere on campus.

How many positive weekly cases are the threshold for moving to remote this semester?

The UVM Strong group monitors multiple health and safety variables. There is no single variable that will determine a change in campus operations.

Why have medical and some nursing students been vaccinated?

UVM medical students, and some nursing students have been vaccinated because they are delivering direct patient care.

Questions about Fall 2021

Which fall classes might be asked to go online and how will that decision be made?

While we hope to be fully in-person this fall, current contingency planning is based on 50% classroom capacity. The Registrar's Office is running a fall 2021 50% capacity analysis now. In the next several weeks, Dean's Offices will be contacted to discuss options for classes that cannot be accommodated in this scenario. Solutions might include changing modality or changing the day/time of the course, while maintaining our goals of minimizing disruptions to students' schedules, and delivering as much in-person instruction as possible. We will finalize this contingency plan by the end of this term and will be ready to respond to the state of Vermont's fall 2021 guidance, which will likely be issued in July. Classroom instruction will remain a priority for the use of campus facilities next fall, and we will continue to utilize spaces such as Memorial Lounge and Ira Allen Chapel for classes.