Fall 2021 Instructional Guidelines: Some Practical Recommendations
July 2021

We continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic, recognizing that conditions can evolve rapidly. The University of Utah will continue to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local health departments.

This updated document contains guidelines based on feedback from faculty and staff, deans and department chairs, and state and federal guidance.

Public Health and Safety Guidance:

Masking and physical distancing
Masks and face coverings are no longer required at most University of Utah facilities.

- Exceptions include University of Utah Health dedicated clinical facilities, and campus buses and shuttles.
- Instructors are encouraged to include the following statement on their syllabus:

  According to the CDC, wearing a mask remains an effective means of preventing infection for both unvaccinated and vaccinated people. Regardless of what someone chooses (mask or no mask), the university seeks to foster a sense of community and asks everyone on campus to be respectful of individual decisions on mask wearing.

- Classrooms spaces have returned to pre-COVID-19 densities.

Vaccination
While Utah law prohibits state universities from requiring COVID-19 vaccinations, all members of the University of Utah community are encouraged to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Encourage your students to be vaccinated and include the following guidance in your syllabus:

- Vaccination is proving highly effective in preventing severe COVID-19 symptoms, hospitalization, and death from coronavirus.
- Vaccinations are available to everyone 12 years and older. Appointments are open in the U of U Health system for patients as well as additional vaccine providers throughout Utah. For up-to-date campus vaccination information go to: https://alert.utah.edu/covid/vaccine/

Testing and Exposure
The university will continue to follow guidance from the CDC for testing, contact tracing and exposure management. When an exposure is reported, the contact tracing team will engage and advise next steps. Please note that vaccination status is part of the contact tracing protocol.

Include the following guidance in your syllabus:

- Encourage students (undergraduate and graduate) to take advantage of university COVID-19 testing services: https://alert.utah.edu/covid-19-testing/. Voluntary asymptomatic testing will continue to be available weekly for all members of the campus community. To schedule a COVID-19 test, click here.
• Include a reminder that students must self-report if they test positive for COVID-19 via this website: https://coronavirus.utah.edu/.
• If you have been exposed, or are experiencing symptoms, self-report and follow university guidelines for exposure.
• Follow the Exposure Management Guidelines for responding to and managing student reports of COVID-19 infection—including contact tracing and reporting exposure to college and department leaders.

ADA Accommodations
• The University of Utah will continue to accommodate students, faculty, and staff through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
• Faculty seeking an accommodation to teach remotely should contact Human Resources.
• For courses classified in the schedule as “in-person,” faculty must host live classes at the scheduled time in the assigned classroom. They have discretion to determine whether to offer additional modalities: (e.g., live-streaming a class meeting or creating a recording for students to access at home). However, this is not required.
  o Include the following guidance in your syllabus:
    • If in-class attendance is a necessary component of the course for pedagogical reasons (e.g., laboratories, studios, or artistic training), state it explicitly.
    • Use this standard language: “Given the nature of this course, attendance is required and adjustments cannot be granted to allow non-attendance. However, if you need to seek an ADA accommodation to request an exception to this attendance policy due to a disability, please contact the Center for Disability and Access (CDA). CDA will work with us to determine what, if any, ADA accommodations are reasonable and appropriate.”

• Faculty must accommodate the instructional needs of students who are quarantined or self-isolated due to COVID-19, or who have ADA accommodations.
  a. In many if not most cases, a faculty member’s regular, pre-COVID-19 approach to accommodating students who miss class or assignments because of an illness will be sufficient.
  b. If a student is self-isolated for a longer period of time due to a COVID-19 infection, faculty are encouraged to draw on their most successful strategies from 2020-2021 to accommodate the student. If necessary, faculty may want to consult with the Center for Disability Access (CDA)
  c. Each course and each student’s circumstance will be different. Please be as open-minded and flexible as is possible and reasonable when students need COVID-19 related accommodations and as you plan your courses and assignments.

Teaching Resources
1. CTLE and TLT have developed a website to answer most of your questions and direct you to services available to help with your teaching needs this fall. You can find it at http://facultycenter.utah.edu.
2. The Office for Faculty has a collection of teaching-related articles. You can access them here: https://uofu.box.com/s/xfuk06p9mdg7tx8b1pcr5rc8gzy55u9r.