

**Frequently Asked Questions
Return to Gillings
Updated: August 7, 2020**

Question:	Answer:
Latest Information	
Where can I find latest information on COVID-19-related decisions for Gillings and the University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Check Carolina Together and UNC Coronavirus webpages for latest decisions about UNC-Chapel Hill. ▪ Check the Return to Gillings Roadmap for latest Gillings-related information. See especially the “Resources for Students, Faculty and Staff” section.
Classes, Course Schedules and Grading	
<p>Will I be able to take all my courses online if I have underlying health condition?</p> <p>How about being able to take all courses online if I am <i>uncomfortable</i> taking face-to-face classes?</p>	<p>We are committed to helping students have a successful, rewarding educational experience this fall. In the case of an underlying health condition, students who need an accommodation should contact Accessibility and Resource Services to determine how their needs can be met.</p> <p>In the case of being uncomfortable coming to face-to-face classes, students are encouraged to speak with their instructor(s). We have advised all instructors to be as flexible and understanding as possible and to accommodate students to the full extent possible. Similarly, we have encouraged faculty to teach online if they are uncomfortable teaching face-to-face classes.</p>
Will the same grading policies be in effect for Fall 2020 as was in effect for Spring 2020?	We will return to our standard grading policies for Fall 2020. If we need to pivot this semester to an all online format, the university may revisit this question. We must take guidance from the university and Graduate School on grading policies.
How will you promote personal interaction, cultural immersion, and active networking with industry leaders in an online setting?	<p>Last semester our faculty had very little time to pivot their courses to an online format! This semester they have had much more of a head’s-up. A large body of resources shows that courses designed for an online format are just as, if not more, effective than in-person courses, and we have drawn on those resources to the full extent possible. Beginning in March, our faculty have had access to instructional designers, a technical team, and a number of online resources and trainings to help them build quality and highly effective online courses.</p> <p>We understand the need for personal interaction to better facilitate cultural immersion and networking. To meet this need, Student Affairs has created a Virtual Engagement webpage that allows students the opportunity to participate in networking events, webinars, concentration-specific lectures and health and wellness events. We have built a robust calendar of events for the fall.</p> <p>As well, different departments have planned other types of online activities.</p>
Are there many hybrid or mask-to-mask classes being held?	A small percentage of Gillings School classes will be face to face/hybrid (FH). Instruction mode is visible and searchable in connectcarolina.
What will in-class group work look like with socially distanced classrooms?	Ultimately, group work interactions will be unique to the class and instructor. Options may include: activities like gallery walks; using shared documents on laptops to work on something together; using Zoom breakout rooms for groups to work together (even with students who are online); and Poll everywhere.

Question:	Answer:
Will smaller discussion sections be in-person / hybrid even if the larger main class is totally online?	Hi! If the class is listed as an online course, no. If a course is listed as in-person or HyFlex there would likely be meetings on-campus.
How will online courses will be held? I.e. will they be held on zoom where we sign in during our normal class time, or will they be more self-guided online learning through modules and such?	Each course's approach will be unique, depending on circumstances of instructors, students, and content. All online courses are scheduled with a time slot, during which it would be expected that any synchronous work (Zoom meetings) would happen. Some courses may have more self-guided modules than others. You'll want to read your syllabus carefully and stay in good communication with your instructor!
If we opt into the remote learning option for Hy-Flex classes at the start, can we switch to in-person as the semester continues?	This may be possible, but only if the instructor approves (since you can indicate your choice in ConnectCarolina now, and it cannot be changed), and if there is an available in-person seat based on the room capacity for 6' distancing (we can never go over the room capacity).
Will lecture audio quality be diminished when faculty wear a mask and teach?	Instructors are required to wear masks while teaching. To compensate for possible reduced audio quality due to mask wearing, we have updated and improved audio quality in many of our classrooms.
Will all synchronous learning be recorded?	We have encouraged faculty to record all synchronous sessions (and upgraded classrooms to facilitate this in all rooms). Recordings may have a delay before they are posted, and this could mean you'd get information a bit late. Best practice will be to attend classes during the time slot, whether in the classroom or via Zoom.
Do recordings for anything (lecture, orientation, etc.) get deleted after a certain period?	Recordings will be deleted after 120 days. They will be available for the duration of the semester.
How will instructors be supported to replace a white board, for those that have a lot of writing?	We have provided recommendations for our instructors on how to use a tablet and stylus to write on the whiteboard in Zoom.
Will there be any academic relief if a student becomes very ill with COVID-19 and cannot attend class or meet for an extended period of time or meet deadlines?	<p>If you have been diagnosed with Covid-19 or instructed to quarantine by a medical professional, are taking in-person or online classes, and your medical symptoms inhibit your ability to complete coursework, you can submit a request to the University Approved Absence Office (UAAO) for University Approved Absences (UAA) https://attendance.unc.edu/absences-related-to-covid-19/.</p> <p>The Keep Learning website references emergency grading accommodations and instructional flexibility. https://keeplearning.unc.edu/academic-resources-2/. This is a great place to keep track of university policies.</p> <p>Also, another best practice would be to stay in high communication with your instructor!</p>
Will there be any opportunities for us to get involved in research with Gillings faculty?	Yes, there are opportunities to get involved in research with Gillings faculty. If you are specifically interested in COVID-19 related research, a large number of Gillings faculty are either actively involved in COVID-19 research or have ideas for projects. The university has curated a list of COVID-19 research projects (https://research.unc.edu/covid-19/research-projects/). Gillings faculty engaged in COVID research can be found here: https://sph.unc.edu/global-health/2019-coronavirus-info-portal/ (scroll down).
How can students address potential burnout (in addition to support pods) with having a remote semester with no break?	Students can use CAPS , attend Wind Down Wednesday sessions designed to reduce burnout, meet with instructors about your work load, start the semester organized and with a clear plan to complete your work. Meet with your instructors if you are struggling.

Question:	Answer:
Facilities, Study and Gathering Spaces	
Can you talk about whether/how study spaces in Gillings and the HSL will be set up safely?	The atrium and other common areas in our School will be set up with appropriate 6' distancing in place. Cleaning supplies will be available so you can wipe down surfaces you use before and after you use them. This should be similar around campus.
Are students able to sit at tables inside or outside the building near their housemates or roommates?	We expect everyone to maintain at least 6ft distancing as it will be impossible to determine who lives together. Adherence to the distancing expectations will help prevent concerns, confusion or anxiety of others.
Are the showers at Gillings open?	Showers are located in the basement of Rosenau Hall on a first come/first served basis.
Is there any place to store our stuff while we are at Gillings?	yes! we have day lockers available! More info can be found at https://sph.unc.edu/sph-facilities/
Some bathrooms are very small and crowded. Are there going to be stickers for standing distanced for these situations? .	Yes, We have floor signs outside of restrooms, entrances, and classrooms clearly indicating appropriate spacing. Also, we have scheduled 30 minutes in between all in-person classes to accommodate the extra time for logistics (including bathroom breaks!) required by social distancing and extra cleaning.
Are we able to contact Facilities for floor signs in our areas?	Yes, please contact Brent Wishart (brent_wishart@unc.edu) in Facilities.
In the case of fire drills, or emergencies, is there a system in place for safe evacuations or sheltering (e.g., tornadoes)?	We asked this question of our internal experts on preparedness & disaster response. They recommended handling the most urgent emergency situation first. So, we would evacuate for a fire, or shelter, as appropriate, when faced with a weather emergency, as we normally do, wearing masks and employing physical distancing as able.
Will libraries be open?	You can find more information about libraries here: https://library.unc.edu/fall-2020/plan/
Will places like Campus Recreation and the Writing Center be open next semester?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Campus Recreation is closed at this time and will remain closed until further notice. They have created virtual opportunities to stay active at home. Read more from there here: https://campusrec.unc.edu/covid19/. As facilities are reopening, please check the website for updated hours and reopening plans. ▪ Also, bookmark the Culture of Health page: https://sph.unc.edu/nciph/culture-of-health/ and the Virtual Engagement Page: https://sph.unc.edu/students/gillings-virtual-hub/ for opportunities to engage remotely and stay active. ▪ The Writing Center is open online.
Will stairwells be well ventilated at all times?	The air circulation is purposely kept lower in stairwells for fire protection purposes. Propping open these doors (which may be a temptation!) greatly increases risk of fire and smoke spread in the event of a building fire.
Will entry to the buildings require a swipe card?	No, Gillings buildings will be open daily from 7:00am until 7:00pm.
Transportation	
Are buses still running in Chapel Hill and, if so, how are they working to keep people safe?	The Chapel Hill bus system still serves all parts of town free of charge. During COVID-19, buses permit only 10 riders at a time, require social distancing, require entry through rear doors, and are cleaned more frequently (more information). Larger buses permit up to 15 riders at a time. They are running additional buses during the semester to meet University transportation needs. Carolina Livery is also using its buses to supplement Chapel Hill Transit System.
How are regional buses handling the situation, for those coming from Durham or other locales?	The best source for parking and transit updates are here: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNC updates: https://move.unc.edu/news/covid-19/

Question:	Answer:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Go Triangle – regional transit updates: https://gotriangle.org/covid-19-updates-1
<p>What are the options for on-campus parking?</p>	<p>Please check UNC Parking and Transportation webpage: https://move.unc.edu/news/covid-19/.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New this year for employees, there are possibilities for reduced parking fees for those working onsite fewer than 3 days per week; and parking on campus in the evening (\$1 a day). ▪ This page also includes information about parking for students.
<p>How will the transportation department be notified about who will be teleworking?</p>	<p>Please check: https://moveunc.t2hosted.com/Account/Portal and log in with your onyen. Under your account permits, you can see whether your status has changed to remote.</p>
<h3>Safety Protocols and Off Ramps</h3>	
<p>What protocols will we follow during face-to-face classes and in Gillings buildings to protect our own and each other's health in the time of COVID-19?</p>	<p>We are taking every precaution to keep students, staff and faculty members safe at Gillings and to assure that no group is adversely affected. We are examining all recommendations with an equity lens. We are working resolutely and systematically to make the school as safe as possible. Safety in a pandemic is everyone's job.</p> <p>We have adopted evidence-based CDC recommendations to return to work and class safely, and we are meeting or exceeding UNC's Community Standards. In brief, we ask all faculty, staff, students and visitors to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wear masks at all times in Gillings buildings unless they are in a private office alone with the door closed. ▪ Wipe down tables, seats, podiums and other surfaces they use throughout Gillings buildings and classrooms before and after use (cleaning supplies are available in classrooms; masks are available at entryways to our buildings). ▪ Stay 6 feet apart from one another at all times. ▪ Wash your hands and/or use hand sanitizer frequently. <p>If you have forgotten to bring your mask, we will have some available at the entryway to each of our buildings (Rosenau, McGavran-Greenberg, and Hooker).</p> <p>As a School, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Instituted one-way passage through Gillings buildings and stairwells (including designated entrance and exit doors). ▪ Added an additional 15 minutes (for a total of 30 minutes) between classes for physical distancing and sanitation. ▪ Reduced the numbers of people permitted in classrooms or meeting spaces to make it possible to adhere to 6-foot physical distancing. ▪ Strongly encouraged virtual meetings and events, whenever possible. ▪ Provided supplies for room hygiene in (or immediately outside of) each class and meeting room. ▪ Instituted frequent cleaning of "high touch" surfaces (door handles, railings, faucets, drinking fountains) and bathrooms several times a day. ▪ Invested in new machinery to facilitate more thorough, efficient disinfection of Gillings buildings each weeknight.
<p>What are we doing to protect the safety and health of housekeeping staff?</p>	<p>Housekeeping staff receive fresh gloves as needed and at least one surgical mask each week; follow guidance on UNC's Carolina Together website; and complete specialized Environmental Health and Safety training. Many have adjusted hours to help keep them safe. We have invested in new machinery that effectively, efficiently cleans and sanitizes our spaces, reducing the amount of manual cleaning required.</p>
<p>What are we doing to protect the health of other faculty and staff?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Faculty and staff have been able to request accommodations if they have underlying health issues. If they are uncomfortable working on site, they have been able to work

Question:	Answer:
	<p>with supervisors and department chairs to adjust days/weeks onsite and to develop transportation plans. We continue to work with faculty and staff to be flexible, adaptive, and compassionate with special requests as much as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are reducing the overall number of staff who are in our buildings at any one time. Many staff whose work can be done from home continue to work from home, consistent with university guidance. ▪ Staff who need to be onsite have staggered schedules and/or are working from home some days and onsite other days. ▪ Meetings are held virtually unless there are special circumstances.
<p>Will students be required to have a negative COVID-19 test before coming onto campus?</p>	<p>There is no requirement for testing before coming to campus. As stated on the Carolina Together webpage, "testing every member of our community could create a false sense of security. The CDC does not recommend widespread, asymptomatic testing, and instead recommends that all individuals take preventative measures to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. See: https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/testing-and-tracing/</p>
<p>Will there be anyone checking students' temps prior to entering the building just to be safe?</p>	<p>UNC is not implementing temperature testing at building entry but is providing thermometers for students to check their own temperatures prior to departing for campus each day.</p>
<p>What protocols will UNC follow if a student/professor is found to be Covid-19 positive?</p>	<p>See https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/testing-and-tracing/ for latest information on this question. See also, UNC's Covid-19 dashboard for latest numbers of identified cases on campus.</p>
<p>How will protocols be enforced?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNC -Chapel Hill has asked students, faculty and staff to commit to community standards: https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/community-standards-3-2/, with students asked to sign an affidavit committing to these standards before returning to campus (https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/covid-19-notice-and-student-acknowledgement/). People not abiding by these standards may be asked to leave classes and buildings. ▪ The Gillings School has a security officer onsite 24/7 stationed in the upper Armfield Atrium within MHRC and can be reached by calling or texting (919) 357-8037. Please contact the security officer, if needed; s/he has been trained by DPS to assist with mask and physical distancing requirements. ▪ Those who continue to flout standards may be dropped from classes or programs. ▪ Each Gillings School office and lab has a rigorous safety plan approved by department chairs, unit leaders, and UNC Facilities. You are encouraged to contact the department chair or unit leaders if an employee (faculty or staff) is not adhering to mask wearing, social distancing, and cleaning of spaces. You may also contact the Gillings School security officer (919-357-8037) who is trained by DPS to assist with mask and physical distancing requirements.
<p>Are any substitutes for masks allowed, for people that have a medical need for an alternative?</p>	<p>In such instances, individuals are encouraged to adopt additional physical distancing measures and/or seek alternative accommodations through the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office (faculty and staff) or Accessibility Resources and Services (students).</p>
<p>What sort of actions can the school/university take to ensure that we are all following social distancing to ensure the safety of our community?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The University created a Community Standards policy to outline steps the University is taking, and that we expect members of our community to adhere to: https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/community-standards-3-2/. ▪ Students must sign an attestation to adhere to these community standards before being permitted to attend classes. ▪ We at Gillings are developing a commitment statement for our faculty and staff. ▪ University leaders are in dialogue with community leaders and Orange County Health Department staff and leaders about ways we can support the surrounding Chapel Hill and Carrboro communities.

Question:	Answer:
If a student/faculty member tests positive, will students who may have come in contact with that person be notified that they were exposed?	Campus Health will contact close contacts of a positive case, and provide instructions on quarantining for up to 14 days, plus self-monitoring instructions. The individual will also receive daily communications from Campus Health. Arrangements for support, if needed, during the quarantine period are coordinated with campus partners such as Housing, Dining and Dean of Students Office.
Will there be annual flu shots available this year?	This university webpage has the most up-to-date information about flu shots on campus: https://flu.unc.edu/ .
Who makes the decision re: off-ramps – the UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor? Or the overall UNC System leadership?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The UNC Board of Governors, which oversees the entire 16-campus UNC System, makes the decision re. whether to pivot to all online. ▪ Alternatively, the Governor could mandate that the state return to highly restricted mobility, which would then require campuses to move online.
Does the Gillings School have the autonomy to set its own standards or threshold for when we would revert to online instruction?	We do not. The decision to revert to all online lies with the Board of Governors for the 16-campus UNC-System: https://www.northcarolina.edu/leadership-and-governance/ . It is possible that the Board of Governors may permit individual universities within the UNC System to make decisions about reverting to all online classes depending on local conditions, but they have not granted that permission (as of 8/7/20). If the UNC System permits UNC-Chapel Hill to make its own decision about holding in-person versus online classes, that decision is made by the Chancellor. The Gillings School cannot operate independently of the University; we are part of the University.
Student Employment	
I have been hired as a TA in fall. Will I be able to teach or do my TA work remotely if I have underlying health conditions or am uncomfortable teaching face-to-face?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students with an underlying health condition may request an accommodation with Accessibility Resources and Services. ▪ Those seeking an accommodation for other reasons may request permission from the lead instructor to meet your TA responsibilities remotely. We have advised faculty to be flexible and to accommodate such requests where feasible. If your lead faculty employer denies your request for an accommodation and you feel this decision is unfair, please contact your program director or department chair.
What protocols are in place to protect my health if I am working as an RA in a lab?	UNC Research has extensive set of safety protocols and guidance that have been put in place. As part of that guidance, each Principal Investigator developed a lab safety plan unique to their labs as part of the university's process for the resumption of research. We recommend that you review this document carefully with your supervisor. Department chairs and the Gillings Research Unit review and approve all lab safety protocols.
I have been hired as an RA in a lab. I have underlying health conditions that put me at greater risk for COVID-19. What are my options?	Individuals who have been instructed to return to on-site work and wish to request a disability accommodation (e.g., for conditions that place them at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19) should contact the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office at eoc@unc.edu .
I have been hired as an RA, but not in a lab. Will I be able to work from home?	Those with underlying health conditions may request an accommodation with Accessibility Resources and Services . If you are seeking an accommodation for other reasons, you should talk with your supervisor about your needs. We have advised faculty supervisors/employers to be flexible and to accommodate such requests where feasible. If your supervisor denies your request to work from home and you feel this decision is unfair, you should contact your department chair.