

FAQs: Responding to COVID at Gillings

Spring 2022

Last updated January 31, 2022

New or updated information in this set of FAQs is highlighted in yellow

Join us for a Covid Conversation webinar, Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. [Register here.](#)

Gillings School leaders continue to prioritize the safety and health of all students, staff and employees while working within the university system and its policies. We will respond to individual concerns and emerging situations with our touchstones of “flexibility, adaptability and kindness” as we negotiate the weeks ahead. These FAQs give additional details to support you in this rapidly changing context. We will continue to update and date stamp this document as new information becomes available.

Information Sources for FAQs

Information shared in this FAQ document is based, in part, on the following resources:

- **Gillings School memos and previous FAQs:**
 - ♦ [Jan. 7 memo](#): On starting spring semester 2022 remotely through January 28 and returning to in-person instruction on Monday, January 31;
 - ♦ [Jan. 25 memo to faculty](#);
 - ♦ [Jan. 25 memo to students](#); and
 - ♦ [Jan. 26 memo to faculty, staff and students](#).
- **Carolina Together webpages** (<https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/>), the campus COVID-19 information hub, is your source for **the most up-to-date, accurate information for guidelines COVID-19 guidelines at UNC-Chapel Hill**. This site includes:
 - ♦ [Recent campus messages](#); and
 - ♦ [Carolina Together Testing Program \(CTTP\)](#) information.
 - ♦ [UNC-Chapel Hill CV-19 Dashboard](#) has up-to-date information on Carolina’s vaccination rates, booster totals, cases reported, on-campus testing totals and more.
 - ♦ [UNC-Chapel Hill online COVID-19 Vaccination Certification tool](#). Please report receipt of your vaccination(s) and/or booster using this online tool.

Transmission and Mitigation

For the most updated information about transmission and mitigation, see the following:

- **Boosters and masks, including availability of masks** (<https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/on-campus/>).
- **Community standards** (<https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/community-standards/>)
- **Campus positivity rates** (<https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/dashboard/>)
- **Data behind UNC dashboards** (<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/data-behind-dashboards>)
- **Quarantine/isolation.** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

- 1. Current recommended mitigation strategies?** Wearing proper-fitting **masks** and physically distancing when possible, together with getting **vaccinated** and **boosted**, are highly effective in protecting against infection and, most importantly, reducing risk of serious illness or hospitalization.
- a. Vaccinations and boosters:** In addition to the [Carolina Vaccine Clinic](#) in Student Stores Pharmacy, [Vaccines.gov](#), can be used to locate a vaccine or booster for yourself or family members in the U.S. Assistance also is available by phone at 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489)]. Please be sure to report receipt of your vaccine(s) and booster using the campus certification tool: [COVID-19 Vaccine Certification](#).
- b. Masks.** All Carolina community members must wear a mask in all public indoor settings, even when fully vaccinated and boosted. Properly and tightly fitted masks are an excellent way to reduce or prevent exposure to COVID. The CDC provides guidelines on [types of masks](#) and [selecting, cleaning and storing masks](#). UNC Health also offers an article with [guidance on types and fit of masks](#) (N95, KN95, surgical, cloth) and helpful video tutorials on [maximizing efficacy of surgical masks](#) and [how to ensure the most effective fit for KN95 masks](#) (provided by David Weber, MD, who frequently presents at our Gillings Covid Conversations).
- c. Where to get masks at Gillings:**
- Disposable blue surgical masks** are available at 7 locations across the Gillings School
- **Rosenau:** Elevators near the front entrance; Room 229 at vending machine;
 - **McGavran-Greenberg:** Elevators near the north courtyard entrance; outside of Room 2301 next to the vending machine;
 - **Michael Hooker Research Center (MHRC):** 1200 hallway opposite restrooms; Lower Atrium beside vending machines; Security Guard desk.
- KN95 respirator masks** are available in these locations throughout the school:
- **Rosenau:** 201 Rosenau study room; 004 Hoteling suite
 - **McGavran-Greenberg:** CJ's Cupboard 2210
 - **Michael Hooker Research Center (MHRC):** atrium outside of 1101
- Please reach out to Brent Wishart, facilities manager, at brent.wishart@unc.edu, or sph_facilities@unc.edu if you have any questions about the location of masks at Gillings.

Testing, Tracing, Quarantine, Isolation, Disclosures

- 2. For the most updated, detailed information about COVID testing**, including where to get tested, symptoms, exposure, quarantine, positive tests, isolation, contact tracing, and disclosures/notifications, see the following webpages:
- **Carolina Together:** <https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/>
 - **Community Standards:** <https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/community-standards/>
 - **Campus Testing Program and requirements:** <https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/carolina-together-testing-program/>
 - **Free off-campus tests:** The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services website, "[Community-Based Testing Sites for COVID-19](#)," provides an interactive hub to find testing locations near you.
 - **Free at-home tests:** Residential households in the U.S. can order one set of 4 free at-home rapid antigen tests each month from the [U.S. Postal Service](#).
 - **Contact Tracing:** <https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/student-contact-tracing-and-covid-19-testing/>; <https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/covid-19-contact-tracing/>
 - **Return to campus:** <https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/2022/01/06/return-to-campus-reminders/>
 - **Quarantine/Isolation:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>
 - **Campus Covid service details and FAQs** <https://campushealth.unc.edu/services/covid-19-service-details-and-faqs/>
 - **University Approved Absence (UAA):** <https://uaao.unc.edu/>

Mode of Instruction (MOI)

- 3. When will classes be returning to in-person mode of instruction (MOI)?** Effective Monday, January 31, all Gillings faculty and students are returning to in-person instruction, with two exceptions:
- Permanent changes in MOI.** Fewer than 10 courses (as of 1/27) have been approved for a permanent MOI change for spring 2022 semester; these will remain remote only.
 - Temporary changes in MOI to stay remote that last longer than one week** must get prior approval from the Department Chair/Unit Lead and the Senior Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs. All faculty who are approved for a temporary mode of instruction change will be in close communication with students so they can plan accordingly (see [January 26 memo](#) for more details). **NOTE:** As they have in pre-pandemic times, faculty will use their discretion to make **temporary adjustments** (i.e., less than a week) in how classes are delivered when there is a need based on instructor or student illnesses, travel to conferences, guest speaker arrangements, etc. There is no need to seek approval for these temporary adjustments. The expectation is that faculty stay in close communication with students when any temporary adjustments are required (see [January 26 memo](#) for details).

Supporting Classroom Teaching

- 4. What kinds of resources are available to support teaching?**
- The Instructional Media Service (IMS) team** offered a Technology Orientation on Friday, January 28, 2:00-3:00 p.m. to help faculty and TA's as they return to in-person instruction. The archived version is here: <https://sph.unc.edu/centrally-managed-classrooms/>. Contact OJ McGhee, IMS manager, at oj_mcghee@unc.edu for any questions you may have.
 - Instructional Media Services.** Visit the [Instructional Media Services](#) website for more information about their services or call (919) 966-6536. You may also review [this instructional video](#) re. Rosenau 131 or email sph_av@unc.edu to schedule an in-person demo on technology in Rosenau 133 with IMS staff.
 - Other resources?** You can find many helpful resources on the [KeepTeaching](#) website.

Supporting Students through COVID

For the most updated, detailed information about COVID-related absences, see <https://uaao.unc.edu/absences-related-to-covid-19/>.

- 5. What is the Gillings School plan for handling student absences due to COVID isolation/quarantine?**
- We continue to use touchstones of adaptability, flexibility and kindness when it comes to COVID-related issues, including working with students who must make up coursework due to COVID-related absences.
- Faculty have been advised to proactively record all course sessions this semester and post them to Sakai so students may access content asynchronously.
 - Students who test positive for COVID are encouraged to reach out to their instructors to alert them of absences and/or put together a plan to make up the work. Students may choose not to disclose if they have tested positive as this is confidential health information, but if they do, faculty will make every effort to keep that information private.
 - Any student asked to quarantine or isolate due to COVID is eligible for a University Approved Absence (UAA). Not every student in isolation or quarantine may need them. Faculty are strongly encouraged to invite students to participate synchronously via Zoom when that is possible, and health-permitting. For additional specific strategies for supporting

students who need to be absent from class for 3 or more days, please see:

<https://uaao.unc.edu/absences-related-to-covid-19/>.

- d. Due to the high volume of requests, the [University Approved Absence Office \(UAAO\)](#) has streamlined the process for University Approved Absences (UAA) for students directed by a medical provider to strictly [isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19](#). For official COVID-related absences, in lieu of receiving communication directly from the UAAO, faculty will be expected to receive verification of University Approved Absences from students.

6. What should students with disabilities do if they have concerns about risks of returning to in-person classes? Students with documented disability[ies] should seek approval for an accommodation related to returning to in-person classes through [Accessibility Resources & Service \(ARS\)](#). If a student does NOT have a documented disability, they should visit [Remote Participation Considerations and Guidance](#) and [Connect to ARS](#).

Classroom Standards

- 7. Are students required to wear a mask in the classroom?** All faculty and students are required to wear a mask correctly inside our buildings and classrooms as described in the [Community Standards](#). Students not wearing a mask on inside should be reminded of the community standards. If they are unable/unwilling to use a mask, they should be told to leave the classroom. All syllabi should include specific wording about the [University's mask use policy](#). Faculty should review that policy with their students so all are aware of, and adhere to, this policy. [Here](#) is a mask use statement and script for instructors that can guide interactions with students who refuse to wear a mask in class.
- 8. Can faculty remove their masks while teaching?** No. Everyone must wear a face mask at all times while inside any University building, even while teaching. Refer to the [Community Standards](#).
- 9. Can faculty wear a face shield instead of a mask while teaching?** No. However, faculty may wear a face shield *in addition to a* mask. According to the university and [CDC guidelines](#) face shields are not an effective replacement for a mask. Face shields protect from large projectile droplets but do not provide protection from small airborne particles.
- 10. What can I do to help students hear better when I'm wearing a mask while lecturing?** In large Gillings classroom and auditorium spaces that seat more than 28 students, a wireless lavalier microphone is conveniently located on the podium to amplify the user's voice over Zoom. In advanced rooms that seat over 60 students, this microphone also amplifies to the wall or ceiling mounted speakers in the room. We strongly encourage instructors to use this clip-on device to help amplify their voice through their masks. Instructors should routinely check with their students to verify they can be clearly heard both in the room and on Zoom. If needed, the microphone and other volume levels can be changed using the iPad controller located on the room podium or nearby wall mount. As a courtesy, please use the controller to shut down the room at the conclusion of class to preserve projector bulbs and battery power. If there are additional questions about microphones or any other technology located in Gillings classrooms, feel free to contact: **Gillings Audio Services / Email: sph_av@unc.edu / Phone: (919) 966-6536**.
- 11. Is eating and drinking permitted in classrooms?** Eating and drinking is not permitted in any Gillings classrooms. Faculty are encouraged to offer brief breaks each hour for courses that are longer than 60 minutes. Students are encouraged to step out of the classroom if they need to eat or drink. Everyone is encouraged to eat and drink outdoors in our courtyards. They may also eat in the atrium or in shared offices, if necessary, but are encouraged to minimize time without a mask while eating and drinking. People in private offices may eat and drink with the door closed.

Community Standards in our Buildings

12. What if I forgot to bring a mask? Masks (both surgical and N95 or KN95 types) are available in multiple locations throughout Gillings buildings (see **1.c.** above). A surgical mask can be adjusted to tighten up on the sides (see **1.b.** above for links to videos on how properly fit both types of masks).

13. Can we reduce hallway congestion immediately before classes begin, during breaks or after class ends? Students are encouraged to wait outside in the courtyards or Atrium areas until 10 minutes before classes are scheduled to begin. During breaks or after classes, students should move to outside seating areas or the Atrium instead of congregating in hallways. Faculty are encouraged to remind students not to linger in the hallway when classes are on break or released. They themselves should avoid standing directly outside the classroom to answer questions and should move to a less congested area of the hallway or outside if possible (see below for spaces to converse with others).

14. Where are some spaces at Gillings where students, faculty and staff can meet and socialize?

Rosenau

201 Rosenau – 26 seats

MHRC

Armfield Atrium – 53 seats

Lower Atrium – 36 seats

2nd floor reading balcony table – 10 seats

McGavran-Greenberg

2nd floor across from the elevator bank – 8 seats

2nd floor outside of 2101 – 8 seats

3rd floor outside of 3101 – 8 seats

4th floor outside of elevators – 6 seats

Outside seating

McGavran-Greenberg courtyard – 50 seats

Rosenau Courtyard – 21 seats

Rosenau Patio North – 8 seats

Rosenau Patio South – 12 seats

MHRC front patio – 34 seats

MHRC wooded overlook seating between MHRC and Baity Labs – 29 seats

Note:

- **WIFI** is available in most outdoor locations.
- **Two outdoor heaters** are operational at the MHRC main patio Monday – Friday from 11am until 1pm.

15. Where are we permitted to eat and drink at Gillings? People are encouraged to eat and drink outdoors. They **may also eat in the upper and lower Atrium or in shared offices**, but are encouraged to **minimize time** without a mask while eating and drinking. People in private offices may eat and drink with the door closed. People may NOT eat in classrooms, hallways, breakrooms or other indoor gathering spaces.

16. Other guidance for eating and drinking at Gillings School? COVID risks increase when people are eating and drinking. Some guidelines for students, faculty and staff, if you **MUST** eat inside (in the atrium or in shared office spaces) include:

- Arrange seats and tables so you are at least 6 feet apart.
- Masks must cover both mouth and nose when not actively eating or drinking.
- Limit time at tables so others may eat.
- Student groups and education leaders should not provide food at group meetings inside. Instead, allow time before or after meetings for people to eat. Provide food at outside events only if necessary and if the above guidelines can be observed.

17. What happens to those who violate community standards in Gillings buildings? Individuals who do not abide by community standards for Gillings buildings may be reported to Gillings security staff, who are onsite 24 hours, seven days a week, at (919) 357-8037. Security staff will ask the individuals to adhere to the standard. Those who violate the standard a second time will be asked to leave the

building(s) and not return. Gillings faculty or staff who violate the standard a second time will be reported to their department chair or supervisor(s) and subject to sanctions.

Exposures/Symptoms

- 18. What should faculty, staff or students do if they have [COVID symptoms](#) (new muscle aches; temperature of greater than 100°; sore throat, runny nose and/or congestion; new or worsening cough; shortness of breath; recent (<5 days) loss of smell and taste; new onset of vomiting or diarrhea not connected to another medical condition)?** All faculty, staff and students are expected to self-monitor for COVID [symptoms](#) daily. Those who have *any* symptoms consistent with COVID **should not return to class, work or campus** until your health status is confirmed.
- Students** should contact [Campus Health](#) at 919-966-6573 to arrange for testing and determine next steps. Students may want to let their course instructors know they will not be attending class (as a precautionary step). Campus Health will implement contact tracing if needed, and let other students, faculty and others know whether someone with COVID symptoms has a positive test result. For more information about what to do if you have symptoms and test positive, see [Campus Health Covid-19 Service Details and FAQs](#).
 - Staff and faculty** should immediately arrange for a COVID test with their primary provider or other testing site (campus testing is currently for students) and inform their supervisor or department chair.
 - Course instructors with symptoms** should follow guidance in **19a and 19b** and then shift to leading class via Zoom until their COVID test results are returned. If an instructor tests negative for COVID, in-person teaching can resume. If an instructor tests positive for COVID follow instructions in **20.b**.
- 19. Can faculty continue to teach in person if they have been exposed, develop symptoms or test positive?**
- Faculty who have, or believe they have, been in close contact** (i.e., within 6 feet of the individual for 15+ minutes within a 24-hour period), even if asymptomatic, should consider getting tested at home, with a primary care provider or at a community testing site. Instructors should be in contact with their department chair, if needed, to determine how to address specifics of their unique situation.
 - Faculty who test positive or develop symptoms of COVID must not come to campus, and health permitting, immediately shift to leading class via Zoom.** Please contact your department chair and every effort will be made to support faculty with a positive COVID test – including help with course coverage, if necessary. Instructors who test positive but were not tested on campus should report their result to the [University Employee Occupational Health Clinic](#). In-class course delivery can resume after a minimum of 5 days if the faculty member is asymptomatic and has been cleared by their health care provider. Faculty should speak with their Department Chair if any permanent or temporary mode of instruction changes are desired. If a faculty member has an extended illness, formal accommodations may be requested through the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office ([EOC](#)).
- 20. What happens if a staff or faculty member is too ill to fulfill their duties?** Like any other serious illness absence, faculty who are too ill to fulfill their duties should notify their department chair immediately; staff who are too ill should be in contact with their supervisor. The faculty/staff member and the chair/supervisor can then develop a plan for covering all duties, including identifying a substitute instructor for class[es], or hiring temporary workers, as needed. Faculty/staff with COVID will be permitted to apply for leave under Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The department chair should notify the senior associate dean for academic and student

affairs, of faculty-related plans for longer term mode of instruction changes. Consistent with HIPPA guidelines, reasons for the leave of absence will be held confidential.

- 21. Are there any specific considerations for Gillings students or faculty who have clinical responsibilities?** A small percentage of students and faculty at Gillings have some or regular interactions with the health care system and patients. These individuals are covered by specific protocols established by UNC Health. Both faculty and students should contact Campus Health and/or their clinical program director to stay current with UNC Health protocols.

Disclosures/Notifications

For the most updated, detailed information about absences related to COVID-19 and contact tracing, see the following websites:

- <https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/covid-19-contact-tracing/>
- <https://campushealth.unc.edu/services/covid-19-service-details-and-faqs/>
- <https://uaao.unc.edu/absences-related-to-covid-19/>

- 22. Will instructors learn the names of students in their class who test positive?** Students who test positive for COVID-19 should alert instructors that of their *need to be absent* and coordinate with instructors to plan for make-up work, but students are not required to disclose to their professors if they have *tested positive* for COVID-19. This is confidential health information. If students do share, instructors should always keep that information private. Instructors are bound by state and federal laws from sharing this information widely, including any and all posting of this information on social media. In addition, students who test positive must isolate and will receive a [University Approved Absence \(UAA\)](#). Instructors do not need to wait for verification of a UAA if a student is in isolation or medically ordered quarantine and should continue to exercise compassion and flexibility in all cases.

- **What should one do if a student in their class notifies the instructor that they have tested positive for COVID-19?** Remind the student that if they test positive, they must isolate until they meet criteria for ending [isolation](#) (i.e., 5 days from onset of symptoms or day of positive test, as well as no fever or symptoms for 24 hours). Note that one cannot test out of isolation. A negative result does not override the positive result. Beyond encouraging the student to self-report, the instructor should help the student maintain access to instruction while isolated. **Students and post-docs living off or on campus who test positive for COVID-19 somewhere besides Campus Health should send their result as soon as possible to Campus Health by emailing campushealth_records@unc.edu receive an email that verifies their University Approved Absence. Visit [Campus Health Covid-19 Service Details and FAQs](#) for more details about what to do if you test positive.**
- If students have symptoms, problems or concerns, they can contact Campus Health at 919-966-2281. If notification of a positive test occurs on the weekend [when Campus Health is closed](#), the instructor should remind the student to isolate and call Campus Health to speak with an after-hours advice nurse. If the instructor has questions about changing to remote instruction, the instructor should contact their department chair to discuss options for possible remote instruction if warranted.

- 23. What information can a faculty member disclose to other students or TAs about a student in their class who tests positive for COVID?** Faculty may not disclose any information to others about a student who tests positive for COVID. Only Campus Health should communicate with students who test positive and with students who should be tested because of possible exposure. Instructors' communication with students should focus solely on supporting their learning needs, especially if they must be absent from class.

- 24. Will anyone at the Gillings School receive a student’s notice or clearance to return to class?** No. The clearance is HIPAA protected information. Only in the case of students with clinical responsibilities will permission to return to class be required (see above).
- 25. Testing and cluster notifications.** The University updates the Carolina Together dashboard with any clusters in residence halls and fraternity and sorority houses; shares new case counts each weekday; and provides regular email from the [Carolina Together Testing Program](#) summarizing latest information on testing and clusters.

Travel

- 26. Do I need prior approval to travel within the U.S.?** Neither faculty nor students need to obtain prior approval for university-affiliated travel within the U.S.
- 27. International travel requirements and resources?** Students, faculty and staff need to seek prior authorization for university-affiliated international travel. For more information, please see Gillings guidance on the international travel exception process: <https://sph.unc.edu/global-health/global-travel-toolkit-2/>. For more information, see: <https://global.unc.edu/travel-operations/travel-policies/>.

Chapel Hill Transit

- 28.** Due to ongoing staffing shortages, as of January 10 [Chapel Hill Transit](#) temporarily adjusted transit schedules ahead of the UNC-Chapel Hill semester to improve the reliability of the transit system. Face coverings are required to be worn on all transit vehicles and at stops.
- For detailed information about route and schedule impacts, visit the [Chapel Hill Transit Service Updates](#) webpage. See [Upcoming Service Change Brochures](#) for specific changes by route. These route reductions will remain in effect until Chapel Hill Transit is able to hire more operators. Please keep these route changes in mind as you plan your trips to and from campus.
 - For questions or concerns about Chapel Hill Transit services, call 919-969-4901 or email chtransit@townofchapelhill.org.

29. What support do students have for coping with COVID?

For information about...	Contact and/or follow instructions at:
Testing information	Unvaccinated individuals are required to get Covid tested. Guidance for testing, including location, frequency and hours can be found at the CCTP testing website . This requirement is for ALL individuals who come to campus.
If a student tests positive for COVID, self-isolate	Contact Campus Health at 919-966-6573
Instructions for isolation	https://campushealth.unc.edu/sites/campushealth.unc.edu/files/Isolation%20Instructions%20-%20Campus%20Health%205.28.2021.pdf
Quarantine guidance – if you have symptoms and/or have been exposed and are awaiting test results	https://campushealth.unc.edu/sites/campushealth.unc.edu/files/Quarantine%20Instructions%20-%20Campus%20Health%207.30.21.pdf
UNC Campus Wellness COVID website	https://campushealth.unc.edu/services/covid-19-service-details-and-faqs

For information about...	Contact and/or follow instructions at:
A long-term student absence related to COVID	Submit a request to the University Approved Absences Office (UAAO) .
Community Standards	https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/community-standards

Additional Questions

Issue	Contact
Students	Charletta Sims Evans , MEd, Associate Dean for Student Affairs
Gillings facilities, cleaning protocols, air quality, signage, outdoor spaces	Brent Wishart , MS, Facilities Manager
Instructional design	Aiya Williams , MS, Instructional Technology Manager
Mode of instruction change	Department chair; then Laura Linnan, ScD , Senior Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs
Zoom or other classroom technology	OJ McGhee , MA, Instructional Media Services Manager