

Spring Academic Reopening Plan

Academic Town Hall
Friday, October 16, 2020

Thank You

- Rates of transmission are low and we have kept our campuses safe
- Courses are being taught and services are being provided with as little disruption and highest quality as possible
- Everyone has played a part in our efforts
 - Continued adaptability and concern for students/colleagues is noticed and appreciated
 - Responsivity to feedback and opportunities for continued growth and support of our community to allow us to always improve

Spring Decision Making Process

- Coordinated effort across multiple partners including University Senate, Undergraduate Student Government, Graduate Student Senate, unions, and stakeholders
- Fall 2020 Academic Planning Group transitioning to Spring Planning ([link](#))
- InCHIP Ideas Lab Reports and ThoughtExchanges ([link](#))
- Feedback from students, instructors, staff, and parents

Spring Semester at a Glance

Jan. 19 – 29

Spring classes begin; all courses taught remotely* while residential students quarantine

Feb. 1 – April 9

All courses taught in modality listed with Registrar (as long as gating conditions allow in-person offerings)

April 11 – 17

Spring Break – no courses; residential students return home

April 19 – 28

All courses taught remotely*

April 29 – May 2

Reading Days

May 3 – 7

Final Exams

- *During two periods of all-remote instruction, instructors should use the format that they think will best support learning and student engagement during these two periods but, based on fall selections, it seems likely that many who are teaching in-person will utilize a distance learning synchronous format (DL).
- [Click here](#) to see the full details on calendar changes posted to the Provost's Office website.

Community Health Considerations

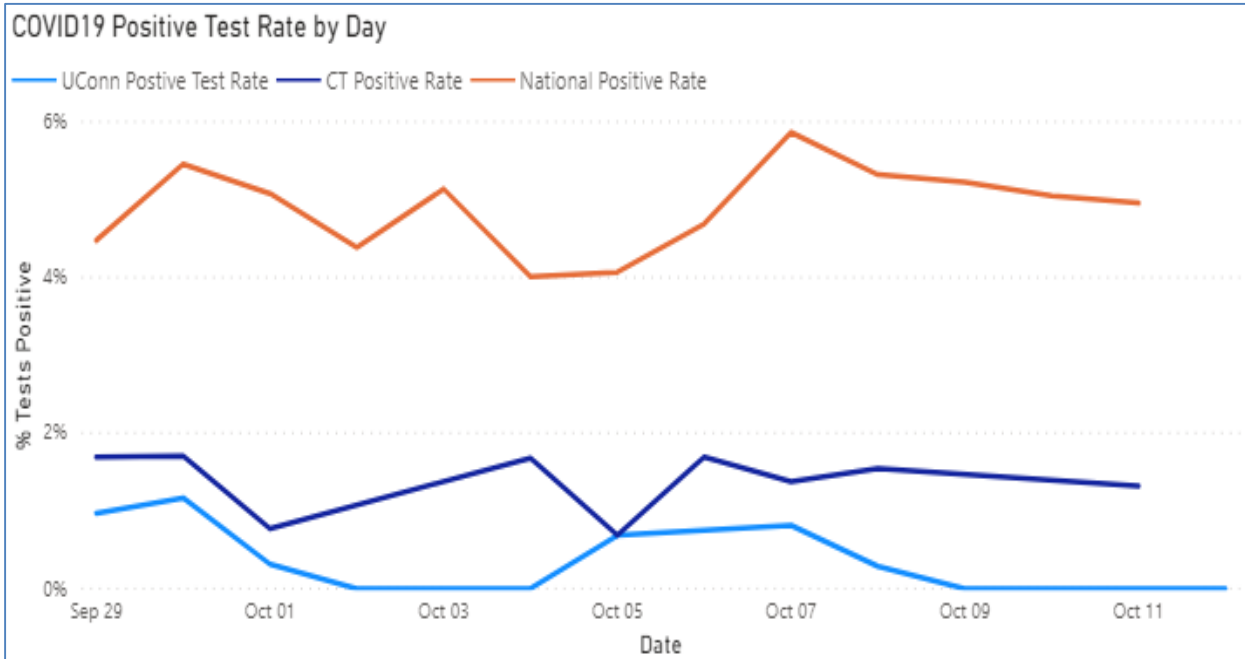
- Fall plan built around recommended public health measures
 - Social distancing/reduced occupancy in campus facilities
 - Testing (see next slide) and contact tracing
 - Mask wearing and handwashing – adhering to UConn Promise ([link](#))
 - Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting
- Spring semester plans use fall plans as a template
 - Working with the available tools/data – continue using public health measures from fall
 - If significant advancements develop for spring, we will re-evaluate restrictions

Testing Strategy

- Multi-disciplinary staff/faculty teams partnered to create a diversified, multi-tiered testing approach to include:
 1. Re-entry testing (all on-campus students, faculty, and staff – all campuses)
 2. Population-level monitoring (Storrs UG residential via wastewater)
 3. Efficient pooled sampling (Storrs UG residential via SHaW)
 4. Individual surveillance testing (faculty/staff and students)

Testing Results (Storrs)

COVID-19 Positivity Rate for UConn, Connecticut and the U.S.



Instructional Modalities

- Spring modalities sharpened with focus on student/instructor expectations ([link](#))
 - Deadline for modality changes – Oct. 19
 - Course registration runs Oct. 26 through Feb. 1
- Each modality brings opportunities/challenges; Feedback shows students are struggling with isolation. A few strategies to promote interaction across modalities:
 - Group work
 - Check-ins
 - Office hours
 - Iterative feedback
- VERY preliminary spring modality data indicates about:
 - 20-25% In-person (% is higher if only counting students not completely on-line)
 - 60% Synchronous online
 - 15-20% Asynchronous online (about half compared to fall % of asynchronous)

Instructional Support Resources

- Ensure you and your students have what you need for online instruction
 - Guidance from CETL to promote classroom connection/rigor and academic integrity ([link](#))
 - Work with IT to ensure you have technology needed ([link](#))
 - Identify most effective place to teach from
 - Identify ways to build consistency for students and share materials early
- Consider how to use syllabus to set the tone and support your students
- Be aware of and share university resources including libraries ([link](#)) and mental health services ([link](#))

Pass/Fail

- For the 2020-21 academic year only, the University Senate ([link](#)):
 - extended pass/fail availability to undergraduate students with fewer than 26 credits and students on scholastic probation
 - approved an extension of spring semester deadline to add/remove courses as pass/fail to April 9, 2021
 - Current fall semester deadline is Nov. 20, 2020
- Undergraduate students may elect a maximum of 12 credits to be distributed over no more than three courses during their entire academic career
 - Courses from spring 2020 do not count toward the 12-credit maximum
 - Requires signature of advisor for approval
- The Graduate Faculty Council has jurisdiction over academic regulations affecting graduate students, and the existing bylaws apply. Pass/fail is not available to graduate students.

Fee Reduction

- We will continue to offer a fee reduction to help meet two goals:
 - 1) de-densifying campuses; and
 - 2) opening up opportunities for in-person courses for students in residential housing
- A student may receive the fee reduction if they are not living on campus and they have no in-person content in their courses
 - We have identified a way in registration to offer undergraduate student/faculty experience (e.g., independent study, research) as in-person OR online (WW) if fully off-campus
 - If an undergraduate has a student/faculty experience listed as online (WW), is not living on campus, and has no other in-person courses, they are eligible for the fee waiver
 - All other details about fee reduction eligibility remain as announced, including the fact that graduate thesis/dissertation credits are not eligible for this fee reduction

Residential Housing

- Residential Life will continue under a similar model of around 50% occupancy
 - Storrs/Stamford residential will have re-entry testing and two-week residential quarantine
 - Students currently living on campus who wish to return for the spring semester can remain in their same assignment and keep their belongings in that assignment over winter recess
 - The cost of housing/dining will remain the same as fall. In the unlikely case we can remain safely on campus after spring break, no charges will be added to housing and dining costs
 - Residential Life will work with students who have no viable housing options for the remainder of the spring semester after the break
 - If we are unable to continue campus housing up to spring break, pro-rated housing and dining refunds will be provided to students and will follow the University [refund calendar](#)
 - [Click here](#) for more information on the Residential Life website

Deficit Mitigation

FY21 estimates (\$M) 9/30/20 BOT update	Current Case	Early Close Scenario
Updated Projected Operating Deficit	(76)	(116)
Deficit mitigation		
Management (non-union) furloughs	4	4
Expense savings from spending freeze	22	22
One-time replacement of operating with capital funds	9	13
Academic/Athletic/Admin program cuts	13	21
<u>Mitigation sub-total</u>	<u>\$48</u>	<u>\$60</u>
Remaining deficit mitigation required	28	56
Deficit mitigation target	\$76	\$116

- Plans are being executed to address \$48m in deficit mitigation in the current case, leaving an estimated \$28m in remaining deficit.
- If we are forced to close campus early and go online, additional program cuts and deficit mitigation will be required.

Additional Considerations I

- Support for student connection and wellness
 - [SHaW](#) and [SHaW-Mental Health](#)
 - [UKindness](#)
- Unique factors across campuses
 - UConn Health communicating its plans as decisions are made
 - Law School – primarily online with a few upper-level courses in person
 - Regional Campuses
 - In-person classes at regionals will follow the announced calendar/modality guidance
 - For spring, as with fall, online courses at other UConn campuses do not count against a student's home campus designation at their regional campus (50% rule)
- General Academic Questions
 - Travel from campus and guests on campus based on State guidelines
 - Strategies in place to support unique academic situations/needs (e.g. completing requirements, international students)

Additional Considerations II

- Research and external placements (e.g., clinical, teaching) continue running
 - Plans in place for undergraduate research in line with safety protocols ([link](#))
 - External placements (e.g., clinical, teaching) continue during online instruction periods
 - Must follow State guidelines including travel restrictions
 - If you have questions, please raise them with your department/unit head
- Attention to diversity of students, faculty, and staff in all decisions
 - Support from ODI and Cultural Centers ([link](#))
 - Center for Students with Disabilities ([link](#))
 - Global Affairs ([link](#))
- Other resources can be found at:
 - Reopening UConn ([link](#)) and COVID Dashboard ([link](#))
 - HR COVID FAQs ([link](#)) and communications ([link](#)), and well-being resources ([link](#))
 - Requesting facilities support ([link](#)) and Environmental Health and Safety ([link](#))
 - Additional FAQs from multiple offices ([link](#))

Thank You. Questions?

- Slides with hyperlinks available at <https://provost.uconn.edu/communications/provosts-messages/>