

## UAS Faculty COVID Frequently Asked Questions: Fall 2021 Edition

### **Q: Are UAS campuses safe?**

A: Yes. UAS has been careful to follow the science closely and maintain safety measures that meet or exceed CDC recommendations. UAS employees and students have been self-disciplined and responsible. UAS has a team of staff who are trained in assessing COVID reports and following up quickly. As a result, rates of transmission have been low on all UAS campuses, even during the worst days of the pandemic.

### **Q: What should I do if I learn someone in my class may have COVID?**

A: Send a notification to [uas.virusresponse@alaska.edu](mailto:uas.virusresponse@alaska.edu). This will ensure that the UAS COVID assessment team can follow up with you and your students.

### **Q: Will I be told if someone in my on-campus class has COVID?**

A: Yes. Faculty are important partners during the COVID assessment process.

### **Q: Do my students have to wear masks?**

A: Yes. Everyone must wear a face-covering at all times in class, regardless of their vaccination status. UAS provides free masks should someone forget.

### **Q: Do \*I\* have to wear one?**

A: Yes. In classrooms fitted with large plexiglass barriers, that barrier is considered a face covering. A personal mask may be removed when lecturing with the larger barrier between you and your students. Most faculty, however, have chosen to keep their masks on, even when speaking behind these barriers.

### **Q: What do I do if a student refuses to properly wear a face covering?**

A: UAS students have been very responsible. Should a student refuse, you can ask them to leave for that class period, and then you should contact the Dean of Students office before the next class period. Safety is the top priority, so if the student who refuses to wear a mask also refuses to leave the classroom, you should not continue class. Again, please contact the Dean of Students office: 796-6389.

### **Q: Do we have to practice physical distancing?**

A: Maintaining a 6' minimum distance is the ideal and you should seek to support distancing wherever you reasonably can. This may not always be possible, however, which is why we combine distancing with other safety measures – especially masking and encouraging vaccination.

**Q: Should I open the windows?**

A: UAS has effective ventilation systems in our buildings; however, ample fresh air is an effective way to avoid infection. If you can comfortably improve airflow by opening windows or doors, or even by meeting outside, you should do so.

**Q: What about “enhanced cleaning”?**

A: UAS encourages good hygiene and provides cleaning products that students and faculty may use. Research has shown, however, that COVID does not spread easily on surfaces, and you should consider this risk to be low, and there is little need for special cleaning protocols.

**Q: What should I do if someone in my class appears sick?**

A: Regardless of their vaccination status, **anyone experiencing COVID-related symptoms must not come on campus.** If they become symptomatic while on campus, they must leave. If you observe someone exhibiting symptoms in your class, you should remind them of our campus entrance restrictions and have them leave and alert [uas.virusresponse@alaska.edu](mailto:uas.virusresponse@alaska.edu) for follow-up.

**Q: Will I have to quarantine if I am exposed to someone with COVID?**

A: If you are unvaccinated, you will likely be considered a “close contact” and will have to quarantine for 14 days or until medically cleared.

If you are vaccinated, quarantine is not necessary provided you are not symptomatic. The CDC advises asymptomatic vaccinated people to get tested 3 to 5 days after exposure and to wear a mask at all times while in public.

**Q: What if a student can't come to class because of COVID restrictions (quarantine, isolation or strict social distancing)?**

A: You should work to accommodate students who are temporarily unable to come to class due to COVID restrictions. This does not translate into an expectation to develop a hybrid class, or an expectation to provide alternate delivery as an option beyond the temporary period of the COVID restriction.

**Q: Who should faculty contact for classroom technical needs?**

- Donovan Grimes, Classroom Support Coordinator: [dmgrimes@alaska.edu](mailto:dmgrimes@alaska.edu) or 796-6189.

**Q: Who should I contact for other classroom setup options (plexiglass barriers, etc.)?**

- Nathan Leigh, Facilities Services Director: [nleigh1@alaska.edu](mailto:nleigh1@alaska.edu) or 796-6487

**Q: What if I have specific safety or other COVID-related concerns?**

- Ryan Sand, Emergency Management Planner: [rgsand@alaska.edu](mailto:rgsand@alaska.edu) or 796-6015
- Michael Ciri, COVID Incident Commander: [michal.ciri@alaska.edu](mailto:michal.ciri@alaska.edu) or 796-6570