UAS Fall Semester and COVID - Updates, Questions, and Answers
This time last year....

- Virus spreading out of control across the U.S.
- No possibility of vaccination
- Public Health unable to keep up with testing and tracing

- Huge anxiety heading into the fall semester
  - Would students be responsible?
  - Would we be overwhelmed when flu season hit?
  - Would we have to shut down housing (again)?
  - Were we doing the right thing?
What we did...

- COVID Incident Management Team
- Guidelines, restrictions and mitigation plans
- Modification to classrooms and campus spaces
- Communication, education and collaboration
- COVID report assessment team
- Promoted stability and flexibility
- Promoted vaccination, once that was possible
What happened?

- The UAS community was exceptional
- We were not overwhelmed
- We made adjustments as the science evolved
- We held safe on-campus classes and activities
- We innovated delivering services on-line.
### COVID Cases On-Campus

- **Since the start of the pandemic:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of 8/9/2021</th>
<th>UAS Region</th>
<th>UA Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where are things now?

- We have multiple, highly effective vaccines
- Vaccination rates in SE Alaska are very high
  - Eligible population with 1+ dose: Juneau 79%, Sitka 78%, Ketchikan 67%
- Testing and tracing capacity is high (and free)
- The delta variant is surging
- So is misinformation
Plan for Fall 2021

- UAS Campuses facilities are open
- More classes will be taught face-to-face
- The full range of face-to-face services and activities will be available
- Departments are encouraged to find flexible approaches
“Layered Protection” at UAS

- Per CDC guidance, we combine multiple measures and consider the level of vaccination and infection in our larger community.

- At UAS, we:
  - Strongly encourage vaccination, and require it for our residential students.
  - Restrict access to anyone who is symptomatic
  - Require masking for both vaccinated and unvaccinated students on campus
  - Seek physical distancing in classrooms and hallways
  - Provide cleaning supplies and encourage good hygiene
  - Provide good ventilation indoors and encourage outdoor gathering and activities

- A layered approach ensures that where one measure is not practicable, the other measures continue to ensure safety

- See: [https://uas.alaska.edu/pub/covidstatus](https://uas.alaska.edu/pub/covidstatus)
FAQ Time!
Frequently Asked Questions

- Are UAS campuses safe?
  - YES!

- Will I be told if someone in my on-campus class has COVID?
  - Yes

- What should I do if I learn someone in my class may have COVID?
  - uas.virusresponse@alaska.edu
FAQ: Masks

- Do my students have to wear masks?
  - Yes

- Do I have to wear one?
  - Yes

- What do I do if a student refuses to properly wear a face covering?
  - Contact the Dean of Students

https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/coronavirus/uas/face-coverings-on-uas-campuses
FAQ: Other measures

- Do we have to practice physical distancing?
  - As much as you can, yes

- Should I open the windows?
  - If you can comfortably do so, yes

- What about “enhanced cleaning”? 
  - If you like, but the risk is very low
FAQ: Campus Access

▪ What should I do if someone in my class is sick?
  • Send them home!
▪ Will I have to quarantine if I am exposed to someone with COVID?
  • Not if you are vaccinated
▪ What if a student can't come to class because of COVID restrictions?
  • Arrange a temporary accommodation
FAQ: Contacts

- **Who should faculty contact for classroom technical needs?**
  - Donovan Grimes, Classroom Support Coordinator: dmgrimes@alaska.edu or 796-6189

- **Who should I contact for other classroom setup options (plexiglass barriers, etc.)?**
  - Nathan Leigh, Facilities Services Director: nleigh1@alaska.edu or 796-6487

- **What if I have specific safety or other COVID-related concerns?**
  - Ryan Sand, Emergency Management Planner: rgsand@alaska.edu or 796-6015
  - Michael Ciri, COVID Incident Commander: michal.ciri@alaska.edu or 796-6570
Closing thoughts from Fall 2020
(still applies today)

UAS encourages everyone to extend and assume:

- **Flexibility**
  - seek alternate working arrangements to accommodate life demands

- **Adaptability**
  - be prepared to change with changing conditions

- **Sustainability**
  - find what will work in the longer term

- **Integrity**
  - model integrity and assume it in others

- **Grace & Compassion**
  - we all are doing the best we can under extraordinary conditions
Q & A?