

On behalf of UGC Chair Moyes, GC Chair Hestir, VPDUE Frey, and Interim VPDGE Kello:

Dear Faculty,

Monitoring campus and community health conditions is very important to our instructional operations this semester. As such, we wanted to share additional details about the monitoring and potential implementation of pivot plans for instructional operations. We are monitoring the following and have mapped thresholds for combinations of these factors:

- Breakthrough hospitalization rate in Merced County
- ICU bed occupancy in Merced County
- Merced County COVID positivity rate
- UCM COVID test positivity rate
- UCM case rate
- UCM vaccination rate
- UCM isolation/quarantine capacity
- COVID operations capacity
- Leading variant infection rate and mortality rate
- Individual campus unit outbreak closures
- UC/CSU university full campus remote instruction
- K-12 school closures

As the Senate Chairs of the Graduate Council and Undergraduate Council and the Deans of Graduate and Undergraduate Education, we are meeting twice weekly to review these public health metrics and to discuss instruction-related policy and support needs. We have protocols in place for GC, UGC and DivCo to provide 1) quick informal input, 2) formal consultation or 3) formal vote on matters related to our instructional modalities and curriculum.

As a reminder, if individual instructors are symptomatic, they should not come to campus and should contact the [COVID Response Center \(CRC\)](#) for further guidance. They should contact their department chair and arrange to find a substitute or teach their class remotely until they are able to return to campus. Unvaccinated instructor who have been exposed to COVID (<https://doyourpart.ucmerced.edu/exposed>) should follow similar procedures by staying home, contacting the CRC and then contacting their department chair to discuss course continuity. Additionally, if an instructor has an urgent childcare or other such situation, instructors can notify their department chair and arrange appropriate course continuity such as a substitute or remote instruction. (This may be particularly relevant this semester, as many K-12 schools are implementing quarantine procedures for potentially sick children.) Senate course modality policy allows for limited use of online instruction to provide coverage for instructor physical absence.

Thank you for all that you are doing to provide great educational experiences for our students this semester!

Sincerely,

Sarah Frey, VPDUE  
Erin Hestir, GC Chair  
Chris Kello, Interim VPDGE  
Holley Moyes, UGC Chair