

Instructional Guidelines

We continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic, recognizing that conditions can evolve rapidly. The University of Utah will continue to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local health departments. Below are some practical recommendations:

University leadership has urged all faculty, students, and staff to model the vaccination, masking, testing and self-reporting behaviors we want to see in our campus community.

These include:

- [Vaccination](#)
- Masking remains required in Utah Health facilities. In non-University of Utah Health facilities, indoor masking recommendations are based on [current conditions](#) and health department [recommendations](#)
- If unvaccinated, weekly asymptomatic coronavirus [testing \(available on campus, consider testing before conferences, travel, etc.\)](#)
- **[Self-reporting positive COVID-19 test results](#)**

As a reminder:

- [What to do if you experience symptoms...](#)
- [What to do if you have had a known exposure...](#)

Responding to an outbreak

We will engage in contact tracing and follow guidance to briefly pause class to break the transmission cycle if there are more than **three** cases in a classroom, after which time in-person teaching will resume. Faculty should be reasonably accommodating to students who are sick or quarantining due to exposure. In many if not most cases, a faculty member's regular, pre-COVID-19 approach to accommodating students who miss class or assignments because of an illness will be sufficient, however, if a student is self-isolated for a longer period of time, the instructor may wish to consult with the Center for Disability Access ([CDA](#)) for support. Each course and student circumstance will likely be different. Faculty are encouraged to be as open-minded and flexible as possible in response to COVID-19 related accommodations.

Promptly report classroom exposures and cases through the [COVID-19 Central](#) website. The Campus Contact Tracing Classroom Exposure Unit will help you mitigate and manage the situation. Here are some practical tips:

- If you or your students must isolate when sick or quarantine when exposed, Teaching and Learning Technologies (TLT) can record your lectures. Simply fill out a [request form](#) in advance, or you can [check out](#) portable AV/recording equipment for rooms where recording is not possible.

Teaching Resources

- CTE and TLT have developed a [website](#) to answer most of your questions and direct you to services available to help with your teaching needs, including the Canvas common syllabus template, suggested PowerPoint deck and other resources.

Student Mental Health Resources

- Rates of burnout, anxiety, depression, isolation, and loneliness have noticeably increased during the pandemic. If you sense a student needs help, share [campus mental health resources](#), including counseling, trainings and other support.
- Consider participating in a [Mental Health First Aid](#) or other [wellness-themed](#) training provided by our Center for Student Wellness and sharing these opportunities with your peers, teaching assistants and department colleagues.