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To: [Dodge, Gail](#)
Cc: [Burdige, David J.](#); [Whitfield, Tiffany L.](#); [Wallach, Josh](#)
Subject: Monday Matters: Planning for Fall 2021
Date: Monday, April 5, 2021 8:01:24 AM

Dear Colleagues:

I want to make sure everyone is aware of how planning for Fall classes is proceeding. The planning is being led by one task force that includes all aspects of campus life (housing, registration, human resources, communications, etc). David Burdige is a member of that committee, as is Bonnie Van Lunen, the Dean of Health Science. The following is a summary of the current plans. Most of this was explained at the Provost's Town Hall last Thursday.

First, we are planning to be fully on-campus in the fall, which means that we should have roughly the same courses on campus that we had in Fall 2019. As we have discussed previously, we have seen increased DFWI rates among students taking online classes, especially for freshman and sophomore students. 100 and 200 level courses will be mostly on campus in the fall and we want to avoid having local students, especially students in dorms, take online courses. Of course, there will still be the usual online courses that we have always had and we will offer some new courses online in cases where we have plenty of on-campus seats.

Given the trajectory of vaccinations, we are currently assuming that we can offer classes at full (pre-covid) capacity in classrooms. We will follow guidance from the CDC and Virginia Department of Health about wearing masks. However, we are also asked to prepare for a plan B, in case events require it, which would involve reducing capacity in classrooms to maintain a 3 ft separation between people. The university is currently working to identify the 3 ft classroom capacity for our classrooms and teaching labs. If we have to go to plan B the decision will be made by July 1, unless some extraordinary turn of events occurs.

Obviously, we all want to know if students will be vaccinated and when. All options, including requiring students to be vaccinated in order to attend in person classes, are under consideration. However, my best guess is that we will stop short of requiring vaccinations and instead work very hard to ensure that every student is vaccinated voluntarily (through intense communication campaign and making it very easy for students to be vaccinated).

If you have any questions or concerns about the fall, please let me and David know so that we can make sure every aspect is being thought through carefully.

Best Regards,
Gail