

**PANTHERS** PROTECTING PANTHERS

# COVID-19

## Guidelines for Repopulating FIU Campuses and Regional Academic Locations

Developed by: Repopulating Task Force June 6, 2020

Approved by BOT on June 16



**FIU**

FLORIDA  
INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY

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# GUIDELINES FOR REPOPULATING CAMPUSES

## INTRODUCTION

As the anchor public research institution in South Florida, Florida International University (FIU) is home to over 58,000 students and over 10,000 faculty and staff members. With a population size similar to that of a small city and our location within a hotspot area, the COVID-19 pandemic presents a unique challenge to our institution. Our response to this challenge has been a months-long effort and will continue as we prepare to repopulate our university for the fall 2020 semester.

FIU's response to COVID-19 began in late January when we began to witness study abroad and other academic opportunities impacted in Asia by the COVID-19 outbreak. As the disease spread throughout the world, FIU prepared for its possible arrival in our community by hosting a pandemic tabletop exercise with university leadership and Emergency Operations Center staff. The focus was on steps we would need to take to maintain our operations without sacrificing student learning and success. On March 11, FIU transitioned over 5,000 courses to remote instruction and initiated a remote learning environment that has been and continues to be in place. The transition to remote work was made on March 16.

While university operations were largely transitioned to a remote environment, a small contingency remained on-site. FIU health clinics continued to provide care for our students and patients; animal care continued; time-sensitive research went on; FIU police continued their duties; residential staff, custodial and food vendors remained to support our students unable to return home. A robust team of facilities, parking and transportation staff and others staggered schedules to minimize risk to one another to keep FIU operational. And of course, additional staff remained on site to support the tremendous technological infrastructure now required for remote learning and working.

On April 18, 2020, a Repopulating Task Force of university administrators, faculty, staff, medical professionals and emergency management was created to develop the framework for repopulating FIU. Following federal, state and local guidelines, FIU adopted a comprehensive approach to repopulating with the following assumptions and guidelines:

## Planning Assumptions

- Our repopulation plan and its accompanying implementation plan are living documents and subject to change based on federal, state and local guidance
- Coordination, information sharing and consistent messaging across all university units are critical to a successful repopulation
- Actions outlined may not occur sequentially and will be implemented in relation to ongoing, potentially quickly changing conditions
- Faculty, staff and students will be required to observe physical distancing and wear a face covering when on campus
- Herd immunity and a vaccine will not exist for a considerable period of time which increases the risk of resurgence of the virus when states and communities begin reopening
- Increased numbers of infections or a second wave of the virus will be the threshold that will require re-implementation of mitigation measures that must be executed immediately
- Protocols for immediate identification and isolation of potential exposures are in place
- Employees will receive at least 1 week of notice prior to implementation, if conditions allow, of each university-wide decision on repopulation and/or re-implementation of the mitigation measures unless other circumstances dictate a different timeline



## General Guidelines

- Decisions about changes to mitigation measures or implementation of additional measures must be evidence-based and data-driven
- Mitigation measures are intended to minimize potential exposure to the virus of returning faculty, staff, students, contractors and vendors and reduce opportunities for community transmission emanating from FIU
- During the initial period of repopulation, the number of visitors to our facilities may be limited
- Increased frequency of cleaning of common areas and high touch areas will be continuous
- Occupancy in buildings and classrooms will increase as appropriate and operate with physical distancing measures of at least 6 feet among occupants in place
- Safety, security and minimized risk of exposure to the university community will remain our highest priority
- Adaptations for self-disclosed individuals of high-risk populations (i.e. underlying health conditions, over 65, caring for a sick family member, etc.) will be considered
- Travel restrictions across time will be determined using Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and State Department advisories with recommendations from the university's International Travel Committee
- Non-essential travel should be restricted, particularly during initial stages of repopulating
- Remote working will transition back to on campus working as physical distancing and local, state and CDC guidelines allow
- Classes will gradually transition from remote learning to hybrid or face-to-face
- Frequent and proper hand washing, physical distancing, staying home when sick and wearing of face coverings while around others will be required throughout the semester

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In alignment with the Board of Governor's *Blueprint for Opening the State University System for Fall Semester 2020* and our *NextHorizon2025* Strategic Plan, FIU is committed to carrying on as a beacon of hope and opportunity in our community. We will do so by continuing to engage in groundbreaking research, adopting new forms of pedagogy, and preparing the next generation of teachers, healthcare professionals, lawyers, social workers, engineers, artists and other professionals with the skills they need for a rapidly changing, diverse world in a collaborative effort with our students, faculty and staff.

With the new normal that is soon to become our normal, we must ensure that faculty, staff and students returning to our campuses have a sense of confidence that appropriate risk mitigation measures have been taken by FIU. Ongoing communication and education are paramount to that effort and will be our most important tools as we move to repopulate our campuses.

Repopulating will occur with a progressive and intentional approach as local conditions allow with the university reserving the discretion to determine when conditions for a continued healthy campus can continue, as well as, whether a return to a more restrictive environment is warranted based on guidance and data from state, local, university health professionals and university best practices in alignment with the State University System of Florida.

## A Healthy Campus Environment

- Faculty, staff and students will be required to complete the screening questions on the Panthers Protecting Panthers (P3) FIU app prior to coming to campus to discourage anyone with symptoms from coming onto campus
- FIU has developed this P3 app as a screening tool to support our university's internal ability to monitor and maintain a healthy campus environment. Daily completion of the screening tool will be a requirement for all students, faculty and staff before

coming onto university grounds on any given day. For residential students and staff, completion will be required prior to leaving their housing. The results of this daily screening check-in tool will also initiate a testing protocol established by the university's workgroup. Testing is delineated further in this document. Holistically, our screening, testing, tracing and disinfection protocols will help support and maintain the health of our campus

- The Panthers Protecting Panthers theme will be used to educate and highlight the risk mitigation measures put into place and serve as a reminder of the shared responsibility of protecting one another. The campaign will include messaging to all faculty, staff, students and FIU community members, informational videos covering mitigation strategies such as how to properly wear facial covering, summaries of what will be different on campus upon return and signage throughout the university reminding individuals to take the proper precautions while on campus
- Reusable cloth face coverings will be mandated and provided to faculty, staff and students returning to campus
- Supervisor and employee guidelines provide disciplinary measures for any member of the university community not adhering to the use of face coverings; the student conduct code will address students
- Employees will be reminded to engage in frequent hand washing or use of hand sanitizers
- Protective shields will be used in areas with high density customer interactions
- Frequent cleaning of high touch areas will be continuous
- Disinfecting wipes will be made available in all classrooms to allow faculty and students to clean their spaces before and after each class
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved cleaning supplies that kill the COVID-19 virus as well as electrostatic sprayers will be used to disinfect areas such as clinics on a regular basis
- If an area or building should need decontamination because of COVID-19, vendors are in place to decontaminate the area or building
- Supervisor and employee guidelines have been developed outlining the new normal requirements
- All student engagement/extracurricular activities, including, but not limited to, Greek organizations, clubs, intramural sports and social gatherings, requesting on-campus experiences will be reviewed to ensure university guidelines on gatherings are followed
- The university has worked extensively to develop processes, guidelines and protocols with its professional staff in athletics, housing and medical staff to ensure that the athletics repopulation plan provides the optimal environment to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on our campus

## A Healthy Community Environment

- The university acknowledges that one of the most effective measures in supporting a healthy community environment is the importance of personal responsibility for self and for the greater community
- The Panthers Protecting Panthers campaign mentioned above will extend to all of our stakeholders including parents, visitors, and vendors of the university
- FIU has developed an app as a screening tool to support our university's internal ability to monitor and maintain a healthy campus environment
- Federal, state and local guidelines will be adhered to and the foundation of any procedures implemented
- The university has identified an action plan for members of the university who are non-compliant with established procedures/guidelines and directives in response to COVID-19
- All students, faculty and staff will be encouraged to receive a flu shot

- Town hall meetings continue with university units to address concerns and answer questions
- Town hall meetings continue with faculty to discuss different teaching modalities and address safety

## COVID-19 Virus Testing

- On a daily basis, faculty, staff and students will be required to utilize P3, FIU's screening app, to answer questions prior to coming to campus to discourage anyone with symptoms from coming onto campus
- Testing will be available to anyone experiencing symptoms or based on known contact with a positive case
- Testing will also be available for healthcare staff, researchers working with human subjects, sentinel residential populations and high-density groups such as our student athletes, spirit groups, band, etc.
- As repopulation continues, a baseline will be established for those who tested positive for COVID-19 during our remote period and documentation of 2 negative COVID-19 tests of the same type will need to be provided before being allowed to return to campus
- FIU is in pursuit of Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certification for two on-campus labs to allow for in-house testing
- FIU has multiple relationships both with ambulatory and hospital health systems in the South Florida region
- The FIU COVID-19 Prevention and Response Team in collaboration with university leaders will develop specific response plans to clusters of cases depending on the nature of the clusters
- Responses could include and are not limited to testing groups of people associated with the cluster, review of the environmental factors and enhanced cleaning and disinfection, enhanced health education efforts, and potentially limiting or discontinuing specific activities

## Contact Tracing and Surveillance

- Contact tracing for students and employees will be conducted by the COVID-19 Prevention and Response Team
- After interviewing employees and students who test positive for COVID-19, the team will contact the identified close campus contacts to advise them to obtain a COVID-19 test and to quarantine themselves. The team will also contact the Facilities Department to clean and disinfect any affected buildings
- The team will provide clearance documentation to students and employees who have recovered from COVID-19 infection and have had two negative COVID-19 test results at least 24 hours apart
- FIU will have a web-based COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard that will have university COVID-19 and community COVID-19 surveillance data. The data will be shared with the university and broader community through the Dashboard
- The epidemiologist in the team will monitor the university surveillance data with respect to both trends and any clusters (hotspots) of cases on FIU's campuses
- Student housing has been identified to quarantine/isolate any positive cases and plans for supportive services for students are in place inclusive of medical care and academic continuity support

## Academic Program Delivery

- Several delivery modes will be made available, including face-to-face (F2F) with physical distancing, certified hybrid, synchronous remote and quality-designed fully online

- All delivery modes will be encouraged to use Canvas for course content and assignments to allow for a seamless move to remote should it be needed
- Classrooms and workspaces will be reconfigured to ensure recommended CDC guidelines of physical distancing measures are in place
- Course mode of delivery prioritization will be made using a tiered-approach
- Communication campaign to students outlining different modalities
- Outline of process/options for faculty or students who need teaching and learning alternatives due to illness/underlying predispositions/conditions
- Town hall meetings continue with faculty to discuss different teaching modalities and address on going professional development opportunities



## AN INTENTIONAL APPROACH TO REPOPULATION FOR FALL 2020

The university has never closed or ceased operations. Currently, there are approximately 600 employees working on a daily basis to support the academic and research enterprise of the university that is our core mission. We have approximately 400 students living in our residence halls, multiple university partners/vendors are operating on campus and our researchers continue to conduct critical research across our facilities.

Repopulating staff and employees will occur over the summer as local conditions allow to support the increased repopulation of support infrastructure and mechanisms of our academic and research enterprise. The university will return additional employees at a rate consistent to ensure the safety, security and institutional needs for the operations of the fall semester.

The health, safety and welfare of our university community and broader South Florida community is paramount for us. We recognize that successful repopulation will be achieved at FIU with a robust education and communication campaign, a focus on thoughtful institutional adjustments to allow for appropriate physical distancing (such as reduced classroom capacities) and improvements in daily hygiene during COVID-19, hand sanitizers at elevator banks and sanitizing wipe stations outside larger classrooms, etc. The repopulation effort will also be guided by a health subcommittee comprised of FIU administrators, public health faculty and medical professionals to determine best practices related to institutional contact tracing, disinfection, and isolation strategies to be able to be as fully operational as possible given the current and future constraints of COVID-19.

Our repopulation plan includes protective measures to prevent community transmission at FIU. Face coverings will be mandatory. Labs, classrooms and workspaces will be reconfigured to ensure physical distancing and shifts/days may be staggered. Employees who self-disclose a vulnerability associated with COVID-19 will continue to work remotely. Increased frequency of cleaning of common areas and high touch areas will be continuous.

As we continue to evaluate our progress in repopulation while maintaining a healthy campus environment, business unit heads are empowered to recall additional employees to work on-campus to increase unit capacity and functionality based on university needs while adhering to the Supervisor Guidelines to ensure appropriate risk mitigation. We expect onsite student learning will increase in specific labs or other approved areas with appropriate risk mitigation measures in place.

The Fall 2020 semester will include a mixed methodology of our “new normal” with additional on-campus staffing while continuing to utilize alternate scheduling, remote work, and other measures to maintain physical distancing and flexibility. Remote work policies will be revised to reflect measurable performance goals for those employees who will continue to work remotely. Students will return to campus in accordance with a defined student repopulation plan that may include modifications in class schedules and course delivery to ensure student success while maintaining required risk mitigation measures.

## A HEALTHY CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

At the core of our repopulation plan is the health and welfare of our students, our employees and all those who step foot on our campus. However, we also know that minimizing the risk to our university community will require every single stakeholder to take responsibility for following all newly established procedures.

FIU is committed to educating and communicating these procedures via our Panthers Protecting Panthers campaign. The campaign will focus on sharing the risk mitigation measures put into place by our university as well as our “new normal” upon returning to campus.

The campaign will provide informational videos and materials covering topics such as how to wear the required face coverings, how to properly wash your hands, what physical distancing means, how reconfigured classrooms will work, etc. Additionally, signage throughout campus will serve as a constant reminder on mitigation strategies (see Appendix for examples).



As we begin to repopulate our university, guidelines from, state and local authorities will be followed. This includes but is not limited to the mandating of facial coverings for all faculty, staff and students, enforcement of physical distancing and frequent hand washing. FIU will be providing all faculty, staff and students with reusable cloth face coverings. Additionally, all faculty, staff and students will be required to check in via the Panthers Protecting Panthers (P3) screening application before arriving on any of our locations for the day.

The university will also be reconfiguring public spaces, installing plastic shields for high customer interactions and ensuring that every department has developed guidelines that outline our “new normal.” These measures will be complimented with frequent cleaning of high-touch areas, use of EPA-approved cleaning supplies known to kill COVID-19 and contracts for decontamination services should they be needed.

As part of our education campaign, FIU will be encouraging all faculty, students and staff to get a flu vaccine this year.



## Extracurricular Activities

To ensure that all university guidelines are followed, all student engagement/extracurricular activities including, but not limited to, Greek organizations, clubs, intramural sports and social gatherings requesting on-campus experiences, will be reviewed.

Our Student Government Association and Greek organizations have plans for all large-scale regularly planned and new events to remain virtual for fall 2020. However, smaller event such as workshops will be considered for in-person delivery in appropriately sized rooms that allow for the implementation of physical distancing requirements. Additionally, each Greek council will work on a recruitment plan that includes virtual and hybrid events. Any in-person student event will require the use of student ID scanners to provide an accurate attendance record and facilitate contact tracing should the need arise.

## Housing

FIU's Department of Housing and Residential Life will be implementing a fall occupancy plan consistent with CDC guidance and best practices on providing a safe and healthy environment. This will include a structured move-in process, as well as changes to staff interactions and use of shared common spaces. Ongoing education to our housing population regarding required face coverings, frequent hand washing, staying home when sick and maintaining physical distance will continue.

FIU's on-campus housing inventory is made up of 3 and 4-person apartments and suites with at least one bathroom per unit. There are no community style bathrooms in any on-campus housing. The shared bedroom units which make up 15% of the on-campus housing inventory are not being reduced in occupancy because each unit has a private bathroom and student demand remains high due to "friends and family" roommate requests.

We have determined to keep a healthy housing environment and provide on-campus opportunities to quarantine/house students in an independent and appropriate manner that we will dedicate our overall fall occupancy to 95% (last year, we operated at 99% housing occupancy). This will allow us to set aside and reserve 65 beds for quarantine or isolation in our University Apartments. The University Apartments is a traditional two-story garden style apartment complex where students enter the units directly from the outside and there are no shared heating, ventilation, and cooling systems. The Housing and Residential Life department budget will be adjusted accordingly to account for the reduction in occupancy and loss of potential revenues from those 65 units (a loss of approximately \$180,000 per semester).

## Student Athletes

The university has worked extensively with its professional staff in athletics, housing and the medical staff to ensure that the athletics repopulation plan provides the optimal environment to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on our campus. All athletes and athletics strength training/conditioning and coaching staff are being tested upon return to campus. Residential student athletes will be isolated in single University Apartments until their COVID-19 test returns a negative result. Once the student athletes confirm negative for COVID-19 they will be moved into their university housing placement for the year.

Our comprehensive athletics repopulation plan is being developed which outlines procedures, guidance and protocols by sport and by university conditions to ensure the highest level of safety standards are utilized in accordance with CDC, NCAA, state and local guidelines to support the successful strength training, conditioning, practice and competitive environment possible. Our goal is to ensure that we can have a successful athletics season in every sport and minimize the potential negative impacts of COVID-19 within our athletics unit as well as the broad university community.

The athletics plan developed will also be a working document so that the university can be responsive to changes in the virus that may impact our community of athletes as they engage in a safe competitive sports season.

## A HEALTHY COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

One of the most effective measures in supporting a healthy community environment is the importance of personal responsibility for self and for the greater community. As such, FIU has launched the Panthers Protecting Panthers campaign which will extend to all of our stakeholders including parents, visitors, and vendors of the university.

In support of the educational campaign, FIU has developed an app as a screening tool to support our university's internal ability to monitor and maintain a healthy campus environment. Daily completion of the screening tool will be a requirement for all students, faculty and staff before coming onto university grounds on any given day. For residential students and staff, completion will be required prior to their leaving their housing. The results of this daily screening check-in tool will also initiate a testing protocol established by the university's workgroup. Testing is delineated further in this document. Holistically, our robust screening, testing, contact tracing, and disinfection protocols will support and maintain the health of our campus.

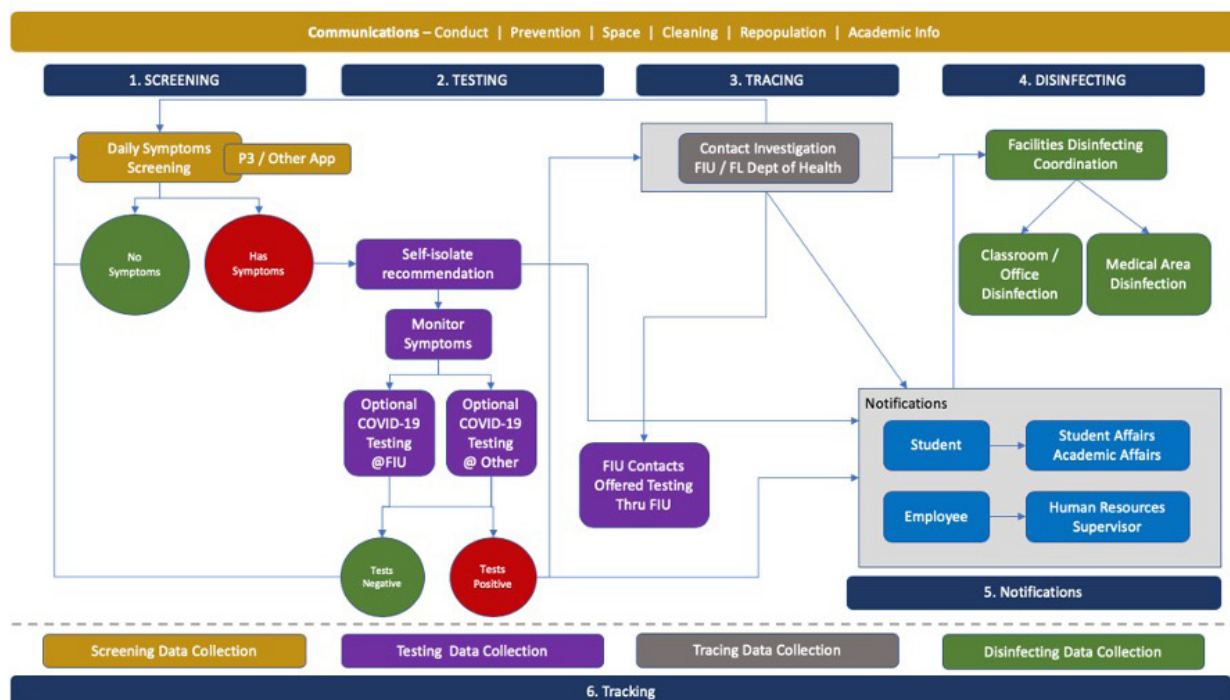
With over 50,000 of our faculty, staff and students coming from Miami-Dade or Broward County, it is critical for the health and well-being of our university community that we educate and urge our communities to adhere to CDC guidelines in place to promote a healthy environment.

As we prepare for our return to campus, we know we can help prevent exposures and take personal responsibility to keep ourselves and others safe by adhering to very important safety measures recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Effective immediately, anyone permitted on campus – faculty, staff, students, and vendors – must observe social distancing and wear a face covering. These measures are crucial to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Led by the University's VP for Human Resources, the university has established a subcommittee which recommended a disciplinary action plan for members of our university community who do not adhere to institutional policies, guidelines and directives established due to COVID-19. This 4-step action plan outlines the importance of personal responsibility in adhering to such and recognizes as a community that in the best interest of the health and welfare of our community, we have a responsibility to hold those accountable who are non-compliant.

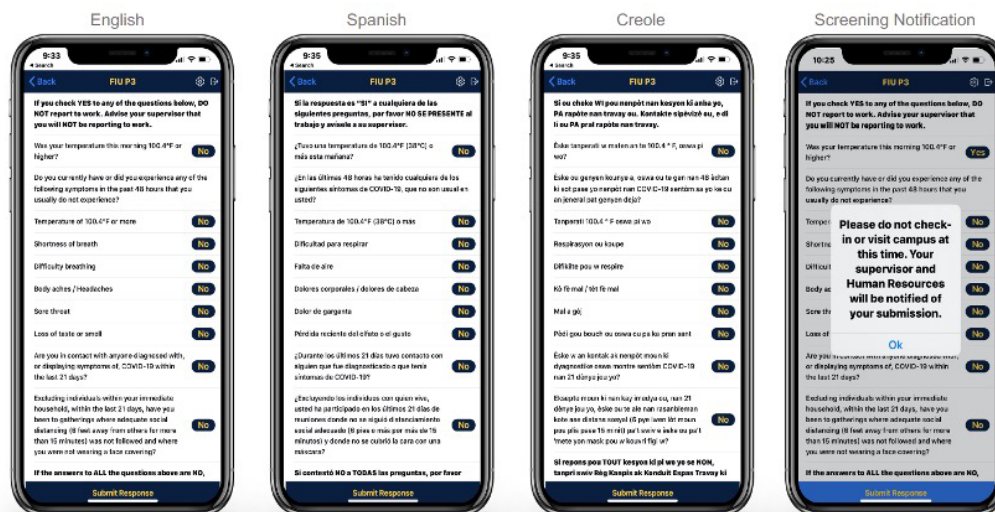
FIU will continue to work with our government leaders, community business owners, health care providers and the FL Department of Health as we navigate our COVID-19 response. FIU is currently in negotiations to provide a large pool of students to assist with contact tracing efforts at the FL Department of Health.

## COVID-19 VIRUS TESTING



All students, faculty and staff will be required to complete the Panthers Protecting Panthers (P3) screening application before coming onto university grounds on any given day.

The short survey will give guidance to each individual on whether they should or should not come onto campus based on their response.



The results of the daily check-in will also initiate a testing protocol established by our workgroup on Guidelines for Screening, Testing, Tracing and Disinfection. Testing will be available for anyone experiencing symptoms or based on known contact with a positive case. Testing also will be available for healthcare staff, researchers working with human subjects, sentinel residential populations and high-density groups such as our student athletes, spirit groups, band, etc.

Additionally, a self-reporting assessment will help us establish a baseline of those affected by COVID-19 throughout our remote period and ensure that we have appropriate documentation (i.e. two negative COVID-19 tests) before returning to campus.

It is our goal to receive CLIA certification for two on-campus labs allowing us to develop an in-house testing protocol. This would augment efforts at FIU's testing site at the Tamiami Youth Fairgrounds, a collaboration with Miami-Dade County, as well as ongoing testing at our Ambulatory Care Clinic and Student Health Clinic. Students, faculty and staff also may have tests through area providers and other county sites.

FIU has multiple relationships both with multiple ambulatory and hospital health systems. Our integrated health system partners across South Florida include Baptist Health; Mount Sinai Hospital; Tenet Health; HCA Health; Jackson Health System; Memorial Health and Cleveland Clinics.

## CONTACT TRACING AND SURVEILLANCE

Contact tracing for students and employees will be conducted by the COVID-19 Prevention and Response Team. This team will be led by a registered nurse manager or similarly trained person and will include an epidemiologist and staff with experience in social work, clinical psychology or public health. The Florida Department of Health at Miami-Dade is responsible for the contact investigation related to residents of Miami-Dade County. However, in an effort to safeguard the campus as rapidly as possible, the FIU COVID-19 Prevention and Response Team will ask all students and employees who have a positive test result for COVID-19 to voluntarily share any close contacts they had on campus and where they were on campus while they were infectious. Discussions are on-going with the Florida Department of Health at Miami-Dade about sharing FIU's campus contact investigation information with the Florida Department of Health. The team will advise the close campus contacts to advise them to obtain a COVID-19 test and to quarantine themselves. The team will also contact the Facilities Department to clean and disinfect any affected buildings. The team will serve as a resource for students and employees about COVID-19 and available support services.

The team will check in with isolated students who have tested positive for COVID-19 on an ongoing basis to identify any medical, social and academic-related needs they may have. The team will provide clearance documentation to students and employees who have recovered from COVID-19 infection and have had two negative COVID-19 test results at least 24 hours apart.

FIU will conduct several types of surveillance. Because FIU is interconnected to the South Florida community, efforts will include surveillance of cases and case rates in Broward and Miami-Dade County. The plan is to import data obtained from <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/> into the FIU COVID-19 Dashboard. In addition, syndromic surveillance (monitoring levels of COVID-19-like symptoms) on campus will include monitoring rates of daily reported symptoms on the P3 app among students and employees, monitoring visits to Student Health, and monitoring employee absenteeism rates. Surveillance of cases will include monitoring the number and rate of positive COVID-19 cases among faculty/staff and students. Sentinel surveillance will be conducted by testing small groups of students [10-20/week] on an ongoing basis in residential housing to identify outbreaks early. Sentinel surveillance of other groups, including FIU's clinical staff and students who are doing clinical training and are in contact with patients in area hospitals, also is being considered.

The epidemiologist in the COVID-19 Prevention and Response Team will monitor the university surveillance data with respect to both trends and any clusters (hotspots) of cases on FIU's campuses. The COVID-19 Prevention and Response Team in collaboration with university leaders will develop specific response plans to clusters of cases depending on the nature of the clusters (e.g. social clusters of students or clusters within particular buildings) as well as levels of COVID-19 in the community and trends on campus.

The number and rates of students, faculty and staff with positive COVID-19 test results will be monitored by specific campus, buildings and departments. The epidemiologist in the COVID-19 Prevention and Response Team will monitor the university surveillance data. If hot spots are identified, the COVID-19 Prevention and Response Team in collaboration with university leaders will develop specific response plans to clusters of cases depending on the nature of the clusters (e.g. social clusters of students or clusters within specific buildings). These responses could include testing groups of people associated with the cluster, review of the environmental factors, enhanced cleaning and disinfection, enhanced health education efforts, and potentially limiting or discontinuing specific activities.

FIU's Housing and Residential Life (HRL) Team has been identified as a critical component of our contact tracing and surveillance efforts. Should residential students become positive with COVID-19, HRL has set aside housing options that are ideal for quarantine/isolation. The university has identified and set-aside 65 individual apartments on our campus, which are the best suited to support our students who become ill and also protect the university from further transmission. Our University Apartments are single story, individual exterior door units with independent HVAC systems which are conducive to isolation and quarantine.

Once a student has been confirmed as a positive case, the student HRL Team will make arrangements to have the student's immediate belongings moved to the assigned on-campus apartment. The student may remain there while recovering from the illness. For students on a dining contract, food services will be delivered to their door. Students will be supported by the university student health clinics, Student Ombudperson and the Dean of Students team and may continue (so long as health allows) to attend classes remotely so long as health allows. The university's contact tracing team will work with the student to determine the other members of the university community who may have been in close contact and potentially need to isolate for 14 days based on current CDC guidelines. Appropriate support by all of these teams will also be provided to all members of the university community who fall under such category.

We will continue to monitor the health environment at our university, in Miami-Dade County and surrounding areas, and quickly respond to any significant changes.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM DELIVERY

Fall 2020 at FIU will feature a mix of new and old modes of delivery to allow for us to provide a high-quality education to all our students while accommodating physical distancing guidelines and the needs of our faculty and students. In response to COVID-19 the university has created a new mode of instructional delivery – approved synchronous remote teaching as well as expanded its prior use of hybrid delivery of classes.



The four primary methods of instruction that we will utilize are outlined below:

**FACE-TO-FACE:** These classes will meet on campus at scheduled days and times. Instruction is expected to be delivered in a classroom adjusted to accommodate physical distancing.

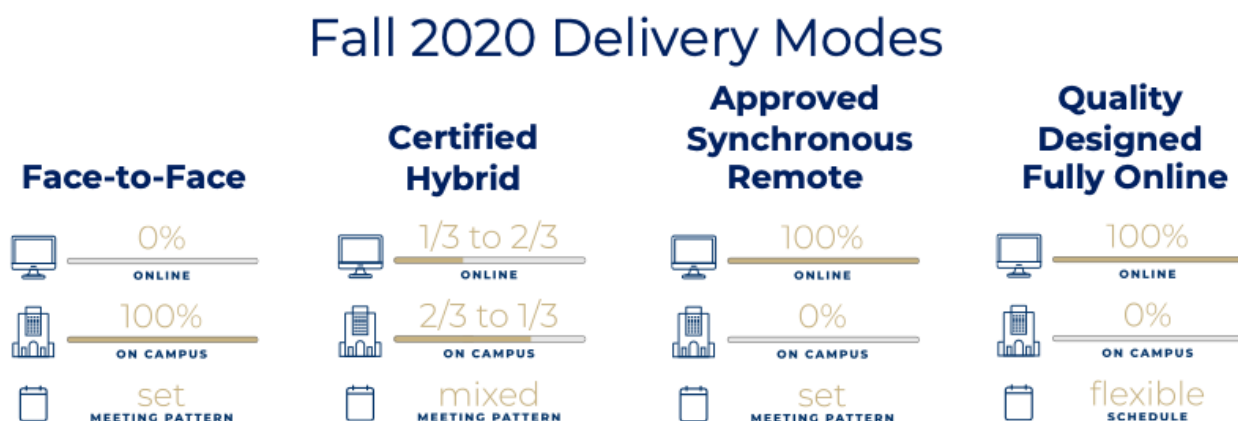
**CERTIFIED HYBRID:** These classes will meet online/face-to-face in a mix of 1/3 online vs. 2/3 on campus or vice versa. Certified hybrid instructors will stay in this mode. There will be a mixed meeting pattern.

**APPROVED SYNCHRONOUS REMOTE:** These classes will be remote on a temporary basis at scheduled days and times and require approval from the university's Academic Continuity Team.

**QUALITY-DESIGNED FULLY ONLINE:** These classes will be fully online with expanded capacity. All instruction will be delivered through Canvas. All courses will be quality matters certified. Students will continue to pay a distance learning fee to enroll in these classes.

As part of the preparation for Fall 2020, the schedule of classes is being reviewed, and modes of delivery are being adjusted by the academic units to account for the needs of faculty who may not be able to immediately return to campus due to illness and/or underlying predisposition/conditions. Our Provost, Vice Provost for Faculty Leadership and Success, Deans, Chairs and Faculty have been meeting regularly to ensure that the academic needs of the units are being met in support of student success as well as balanced with the health, safety and welfare of the university community.

Once repopulation begins, should any student or faculty become ill or need to be isolated due to the potential exposure to a positive COVID-19 person, the appropriate arrangements and support structures will be put into place. If a faculty member is ill, he/she may continue to teach and the course will be transitioned to remote; if the faculty member is too ill to continue teaching, an alternate faculty will be assigned to continue the course with the support of the departmental chairperson. If a student is ill, the University Student Ombudsperson will work with the student and his/her faculty during the semester to transition the student to a remote option of the course or if too ill to continue, to mitigate any negative impact to the student's progression and develop an appropriate semester completion plan once the student recovers from illness.



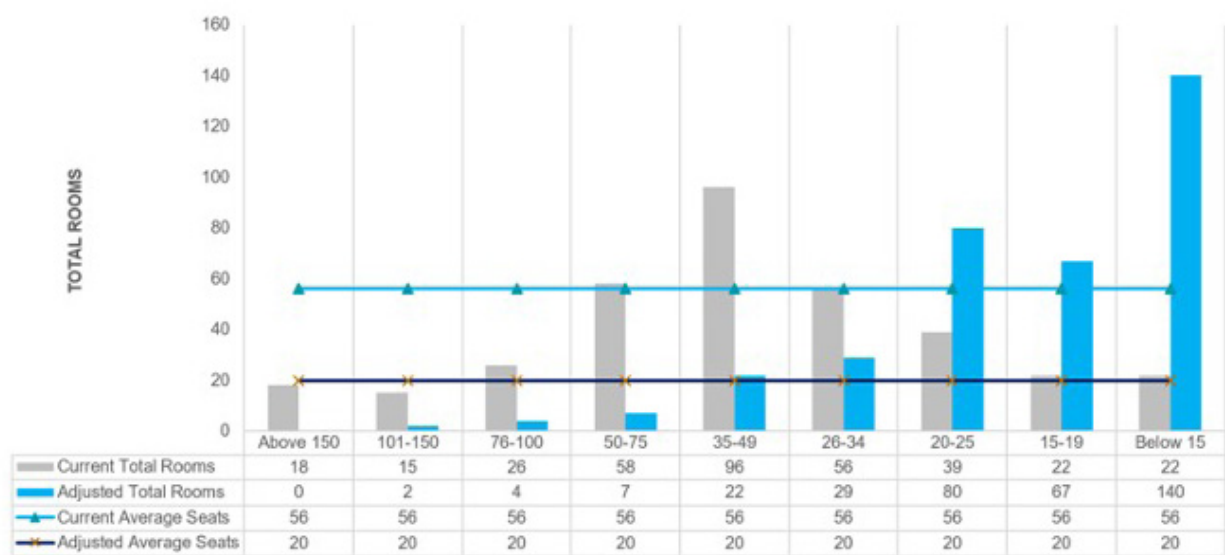
## ACADEMIC PROGRAM DELIVERY - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The quality of our FIU is contingent on the quality of our teaching and learning enterprise. As such the university's Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Media Technology Services and FIUOnline teams came together in an immediate collective response to COVID-19. This collective effort has continued to support the ongoing response needed to address professional development needs for faculty who may be managing and teaching in new modalities. The university has continued its support from instructional designers and professional development for FIUOnline courses. The university has expanded its existing professional development for hybrid classes. Additionally, the university established an FIU Micro-Credential in the form of a digital badge that will better prepare faculty to teach remotely.

All instructors who have not taught online and will be teaching online are encouraged to participate in the Remote Teach Ready Badge. Instructors who have previously taught a fully online or a certified hybrid section in the past do not need to participate in these workshops, as they have already received information about this set of skills. The curriculum includes trainings, workshops, and hands-on activities which focus on Canvas, Zoom, Honorlock, FERPA, course design, alternative assessments, and more. As of today, the university has had over 700 faculty participate in this professional development micro-credential.

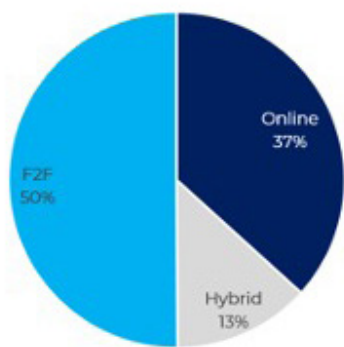
The need for physical distancing has significantly reduced capacity of classrooms at FIU leading to the development of a process for prioritization of which courses will be able to be delivered face-to-face.

## Fall 2020 Room Capacity Current vs. Adjusted



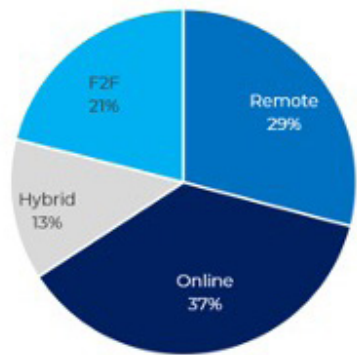
### Current Seat Distribution

If Maximum Capacity is Reached



### New Seat Distribution

If Maximum Capacity is Reached



Course and classroom prioritization for face-to-face will be made based on a tiered-approach. Priority will be given to courses in which remote delivery is not possible and that must remain in the term followed by introductory classes and classes with high FTIC enrollment. Last on the priority list will be courses with low enrollment.

# Tiers

Used to identify course and classroom prioritization in terms of priority for Face-to-Face classrooms



These tiers allow us to optimize the use of classroom space with student outcomes and risk mitigation measures as driving factors, to ensure that our most vulnerable students (e.g. FTIC) can benefit from the learning support found in in-class learning experiences and to provide a mix of modalities to best meet student needs.

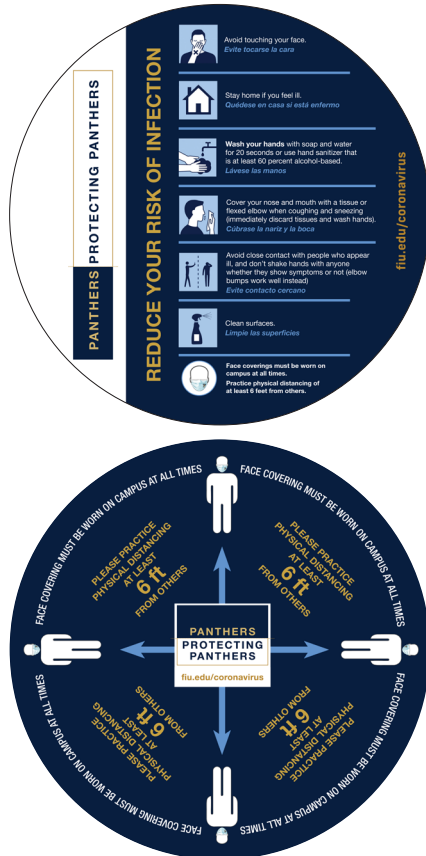
All delivery modes will be encouraged to use Canvas for course content and assignments in order to allow for a quick return to remote should it be needed based on changes in the health environment.

Our Academic Continuity Team consisting of our Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Educational Technology Services and FIU Online, will continue to provide all faculty members with added training and support as they navigate new software and non-traditional modes of delivery. This added support includes a Remote Teach Ready micro-credential for faculty aimed at professional development/ training on key technology tools and skills to teach remotely.

# APPENDIX: SIGNAGE EXAMPLES

## FLOOR STICKER - SOCIAL DISTANCE GUIDANCE

16" Diameter



Size: 16"x 20"



Size: 8" x 72"



Size: 16"x 20"





## ELEVATORS

Elevator Wall Signs (Mounted – 7” x 10”)



## STAIRWELLS

Size (Mounted – 7” x 10”)



## A-FRAMES / POSTER BOARD

Size: 24” x 36”

