UNT’s Reopening Update Town Hall

Neal Smatresk, President
Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020
Fall 2020 Reopening & Safety Plans Overview

• What has changed since our last Safety Town Hall, June 22
• What we will cover today
• Reopening plan approval process
• Healthalerts.unt.edu
• CARES Act funding
• HEALS Act Legislation
• UNT Athletics
• Summer and Fall Enrollment Update
• Planning for Spring 2021
Prepping Campus for You

Mandatory Safety Training
  • Safety training required of all faculty and staff was due Friday, July 31. Take this ASAP if you haven’t completed it yet.
  • Student training was released into Canvas Friday, July 31 – Students should take this training before coming to campus.

Health and Safety Awareness Campaign
  • Ongoing information to keep our campus community aware of safety protocols and tips
  • Check the COVID-19 section in UNT Today

Installation of Signage in High-Traffic Walkways, Restrooms, etc.
  • Signage began going up across campus in May

Continued Updates to Healthalerts.unt.edu
Reopening Guiding Committees

In May 2020, President Smatresk appointed five committees to focus on developing reopening guidelines for the university. The intent is to open campus as much as possible to provide the most robust student academic and engagement experience possible, while maintaining a safe environment following local, state and CDC guidelines.

The five committees with their team leads are:

• **Academic Affairs Advisory Restart Group** (Jennifer Cowley and Adam Fein)

• **Operations and Physical Plan Advisory Group** (Dave Reynolds)

• **Research Advisory Group** (Mark McLellan)

• **Safety and Incident Management Advisory Group** (Steve Maruszewski and Brandi Renton)

• **Student Life Advisory Group** (Deb Rohwer and Elizabeth With)
Reopening Guiding Committees

Process

• Each advisory group meets weekly (some meet twice per week) to discuss issues and make recommendations.

• The recommendations from each advisory group are discussed and considered by the Leads Group, which consists of the leads from each advisory group.

• Recommendations that are agreed upon by the leads are taken to the President for approval and implementation.

• If there is not agreement from the Leads Group, the recommendation is taken to the Cabinet meeting for further discussion and possible recommendation to the President.
Reopening Schedule

June and July – What We Accomplished

• Began preparing for the reopening in all offices, most major offices have limited schedule
• Research laboratories opened
• Virtual orientations began
• Individualized instruction spaces opened
• Fall face-to-face schedule finalized by July 10
• Coaches and student-athletes returned to campus – with testing
• Physical barriers put in place, where needed
• Began determining who can teach or be on campus in person
• Training for remote and online continued for faculty
• COVID-19 Hotline launched June 10 to help UNT community members report and understand COVID-19 symptoms, testing information and/or results; receive guidance on actions they may need to take following potential exposure; and with questions related to COVID-19’s impact on university operations. The hotline number is 844-366-5892 and email address is COVID@unt.edu.
Reopening Schedule

Aug. 15 – Fall Semester

• Division plans for each office complete, including virtual and in-person services where needed
• Ready for student move-in to residence halls and scaling dining to support the expected campus population
• Classes currently planned to commence Aug. 24
• All group events are currently on hold
• Sports attendance will depend on guidance provided by CUSA and the State of Texas
• Classes will go remote after Thanksgiving
Safety & Incident Management
Safety & Incident Management Advisory Group

• Reviewed over 120 campus reopening plans
• Launched two COVID-19 training modules. Both were due July 31.
  • Student training is live. Supervisor-specific training planned for future.
  • Questions: AskTraining@unt.edu
• COVID Dashboard website will detail active cases with current numbers, explanatory definitions and other helpful information.
• Event safety form for future events
COVID-19 Dashboard

- This will launch later this week.
Face Covering Information for UNT

• Face coverings now required.

• Hundreds of face coverings and shields distributed.
  • If needed, contact supervisor or college PPE coordinator to email AskRMS@unt.edu
  • Appropriate usage of face shields
  • For accommodations, contact ODA or HR

• Student contest announced design winner of mask for residents, faculty/staff.

• Non-compliance guide developed along with scenario/scripts to help with discussions.

Face covering examples

- Face shield
- Opaque mask
- Clear plastic

Winning student mask design
Face Covering Resources

https://healthalerts.unt.edu/return/mask-faqs

Here, Heroes Wear Masks

Keep yourself and others in our Mean Green Family safe by wearing a face covering at all times when not eating or drinking.

How to Put on Your Face Covering Correctly:
- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering.
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face.
- Make sure you can breathe easily.

Be Sure You Are Wearing Your Face Covering Correctly:
- Wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth to help protect others in case you’re infected with COVID-19 but don’t have symptoms.
- Wear a face covering in public settings when around people who don’t live in your household, especially when it may be difficult for you to stay six feet apart.
- Wear a face covering correctly for maximum protection.
- Don’t put the face covering around your neck or up on your forehead.
- Don’t touch the face covering and, if you do, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to disinfect.

How to Take Your Face Covering Off Correctly:
- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops.
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties.
- Fold outside corners together.
- Place covering in the washing machine (learn more about how to wash cloth face coverings).
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing.

And don’t forget to store your mask someplace safe — where it won’t get contaminated.


healthalerts.unt.edu
Guidance on Face Coverings

Office of Disability Access for Students

• Sage Hall 167
• 940-565-4323
• apply.ODA@unt.edu

Human Resources for Faculty and Staff

• Support Service Building (SSB) 120A
• 940-565-2281
• HRAadministration@untsystem.edu
Health and Wellness
COVID Hotline & Health Precaution Reminders

- COVID Hotline launched June 10 for faculty, staff, students
  - Contact hotline if potential exposure, pending or positive test results or symptoms.
  - Receive guidance on actions following potential exposure and with questions related to COVID-19’s impact on university operations.

- COVID health precautions
  - Self-monitor for symptoms before coming on-site.
  - Do not come to campus if you have symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19.
  - If a student is on campus and expresses they are ill, direct them to the Student Health and Wellness Center.
UNT Contact Tracing Team

• UNT Contact Tracing Team: 7-8 full-time staff and approximately 50 members who offer support as needed.

• Those with symptoms or positive tests are directed to self-isolate. If identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive, they are asked to self-quarantine.

• Following a thorough, confidential interview, those diagnosed with COVID-19 are asked to identify anyone they may have had close contact with during their infectious period.

• For students who are diagnosed:
  • Team confirms their class schedule with the Registrar.
  • Faculty members are contacted by Student Health and Wellness Center to provide class seating chart and attendance record. This helps identify others in the class that may be considered a close contact and possibly need to quarantine.

UNT Health Alerts website has symptom information and offers monitoring guidance.

Visit Healthalerts. unt.edu
What Happens if There is a Positive Case?

- Contact Tracing Team interviews the person with positive test and identifies potential close contacts.
- Potential close contacts are directly notified of details such as self-quarantine instructions, time period, testing information, symptom monitoring and resources.
- Facilities notified and provides appropriate sanitation for the room.
- Faculty are expected to show a video in class that lets everyone know of the positive case, reviews symptoms, reminds students about seeking care at the SHWC, and provides general information.

**Important terms**

**Close contact**
Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes total starting from 48 hours before the infected person developed symptoms. Even wearing a mask you can be a close contact. Does not apply to a close contact of a close contact.

**Isolation**
Separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

**Quarantine**
Separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to monitor for signs of illness. These people may have the disease but not show symptoms.
Testing Information

• In general, faculty/staff should seek medical attention from their health care provider.

• UNT Student Health and Wellness Center has the capability to test symptomatic students for COVID-19 using a rapid antigen test. Results are ready within 15 minutes.
  • UNT SHWC will test faculty/staff/students that have been identified as close contacts of an infected person, free of charge.
  • Contact the center at 940-565-2333, PRIOR to coming into the office.

• Denton County Public Health holds periodic COVID testing. Visit their website for details.

• Negative test results **DO NOT** change quarantine requirements.
Facilities
Building Safety

Multi-prong approach:
• Reduce densities
• Reduce rooms in use
• Increase ventilation/outside air
• Manage humidity
• Confirm filtration
• Disinfect and clean
• Wear masks
• Communicate
Building Safety

- Social distancing signs installed throughout buildings in partnership with UBSC.
- Hand sanitizer stations placed in prominent locations across campus in buildings.
- Bottles of hand sanitizer placed/being placed in common areas.
- Water fountains turned off, but bottle stations available if independent of water fountains.
- Plumbing systems flushed throughout the summer to keep chlorine residuals in the pipes.
- Elevators marked to indicate recommended occupancy.
Safety Signage to Guide You

HERE, HEROES WEAR MASKS
Keep yourself and others in our Mean Green Family safe by wearing a face cover at all times when not actively eating or drinking.
Stay smart. Stay strong. Stay safe. healthunts.unt.edu

EAGLES, DISASSEMBLE!
It’s not wise to travel in flocks. Limit group sizes and maintain social distance.
Stay smart. Stay strong. Stay safe. healthunts.unt.edu

TIDY YOUR TALONS
Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
Use hand sanitizer frequently.
Avoid handshakes and other interactions that could spread germs.
Stay smart. Stay strong. Stay safe. healthunts.unt.edu
More Safety Signage
Air Filtration

- Obtaining latest guidance from professional societies such as ASHRAE, APPA, etc.
- HVAC systems modified to optimize outside air intake/humidity for COVID-19.
- Systems monitored remotely to check air flow and humidity.
- HVAC filters replaced before school restart, with higher efficiency filters being installed in systems that will accommodate.
- Air cleaning technology such as UV-C and bi-polar ionization being investigated for specialized use facilities. Bi-polar ionization in place in portions of some facilities.
Socially Distanced Classroom

• Space Management & Facilities recommended social distancing per CDC guidance, followed by furniture review and realignment.

• Enrollment caps are in place, tied to seating for student's availability in each classroom – caps cannot be exceeded.

• Classrooms will have 6 feet between students that are clearly marked. Exceptions are considered for specialized learning environments where 6 feet is impractical and requires additional protective measures.

• A 6-foot tape line is marked at the front of the classroom to delineate the line behind which students must stay to maintain social distance from the instructor.

• Seating rearranged and signs placed, as appropriate, in all classrooms.
Classroom Social Distancing – a Massive Effort:
• Modified 158 General Purpose classes in 22 buildings
• Moved:
  • 4,500 chairs
  • 1,600 tables
  • 275 tablet desks
• 4,500 stickers/signs installed on fixed seats
• Field verified & created social distance plans for additional 170 rooms across campus – more to come!
• Who participated? Scores of Facilities staff
Classroom Example
Classroom Example
Sanitation Kits

• Sanitation kits available in each classroom and will be regularly replenished.

• Custodial teams cleaning and disinfecting nightly.
  • Including bathrooms

• Additional custodial personnel on campus during days to support emergency disinfection, resupply materials and spot clean.

• Frequently Asked Questions at https://facilities.unt.edu/covid-faq

Each classroom will have a green camo cleaning kit with similar items to those shown below for students and faculty to use as needed.
This system is the property of the University of North Texas and your use of this resource constitutes an agreement to abide by relevant federal and state laws and UNT policies (see UNT Policy 14.003 on Computer Use).

Unauthorized use of this system is prohibited. Violations can result in penalties and criminal prosecution.

Usage may be subject to security testing and monitoring.

Users have no expectation of privacy except as otherwise provided by applicable privacy laws.

This system is intended for instructional use only and is subject to weekly re-imaging. Do not save your work to this computer.

For technical assistance in this space, please call Classroom Support Services at (940) 565 – 2691.

Click here to report a classroom cleaning supplies shortage

Report A Problem
Sneeze Guards and Sanitizing Buckets

Sneeze Guards Delivered: 435

Hand Sanitizer Stands Delivered: 392

Sanitizing Buckets Delivered: 526
Student Affairs
Housing Updates

- Move-in begins Aug. 14 (with random testing as described earlier).
- Each hall is opening with RA wing communities.
  - Each wing will have a unique color of wristband.
  - Students should congregate with members of their wing only.
  - Social distancing and masks required.
- No guests or visitors during first weeks (will evaluate as semester progresses).
- First Flight Activities – all virtual
- Programming within wings led by RAs.
Isolation Spaces

• Housing will provide isolation and quarantine spaces for residents.
• Students who test positive during move-in will have option to isolate on campus.
• Meals will be delivered to those who are isolating/quarantining.
International Students

• Currently monitoring all international student travel through the International Office/Risk Management (as usual).
• All students will need to quarantine for 14 days.
• All international resident students will quarantine in Housing.
Dining Updates

Residential Dining

• Hybrid plan of reduced dining room seating capacity to provide social distancing plus takeout options upon request. Masks required except when eating at table.
• Identify one-way traffic patterns in dining rooms with highly visible social distancing floor markers. When appropriate, utilize a second entrance as “exit only.”
• All food is full-service, including salad and desserts, to reduce guest contact.
• Provide additional dining seating through outdoor tents.
• Cleaning and sanitizing increased in all spaces.
• Ancillary boxed lunch locations – accept resident meal plan; available in Union ballroom and Taco Bueno (as a back-up location).
Dining Updates

Retail Dining
- Additional temporary seating in the Library Mall (through October).
- All satellite locations will remain open to decentralize food service traffic (GAB, BLB, Wooten).
- Eliminate all self-service options in The Campus Chat Food Court.
- Avesta will be open for breakfast and lunch with limited dining room seating and optional take out at no extra cost.

Dining
- Dining scaled to support the expected campus population.
- Dining is prepared to move to 100% takeout service model should it be necessary.
Services In-Person and Virtual

• All student-facing offices are returning to normal operating hours by Monday, Aug. 17.
• Students will be served in both in-person and virtual formats.
• Students who prefer virtual services will be accommodated.
• Some students may have a virtual meeting in the actual office, when necessary.
• Staffing will fluctuate to accommodate on-campus student needs – telecommuting will continue in many offices on a rotation schedule.
Academic Affairs
Special Programs to Support New Students

- UNT to YOU
- First-Year Experience Pilot Program
- International Remote Start
- Fast Track Graduate Admission
Required Seating Chart and Attendance
Technology Supporting Instruction

• Remote Technology Kits available to faculty to enhance remote instruction.
• All general purpose (lecture) classrooms have at least one camera, so instructors can allow students who may be in isolation to participate in class. In-person classes also can be recorded via Zoom and provided to students.
• 17 classrooms are (or will be by Fall) equipped as HyFlex/Advanced Synchronous Rooms, with microphones installed in the ceilings above student seating.
  • BLB005, BLB010, BLB015, BLB090, BLB140, BLB250, BLB260
  • DPK110, DPK120, DPK150, DPF175; DPD201, DPB185, DPB155
  • FRSC128, FRHB102, FRHB118
• New microphones have been added to all general (110) classrooms to ensure the best possible experience.
Perch Points

• Perch Points are rooms designated for students to use for remote instruction and will be located throughout campus.
• Rooms will be identified and have signage prior to the start of the fall semester. More information will be posted on the Return to Learn website in the coming weeks.
• Helpful information can be found at the Return to Learn website at vpaa.unt.edu/return
Clinic Reopenings

- Beginning Aug. 3, clinics have limited reopenings providing one on one patient care.
Events and Travel

Events

• All events currently are on hold, including student organization meetings.
• When events are possible, they will require prior approval. Event form is available at: https://tinyurl.com/UNTEventForm.
• For those units who have activities that are mission critical that need to be in person, they must be approved by area VPs.
• New administrative function form is available, when necessary, to be sent to the Safety and Incident Management Advisory Group.

Travel

• University-sponsored travel is not permitted at this time. Exceptions require VP approval.

Visitors to campus are not permitted at this time.
Return to Learn

Updated July 31, 2020

Like every other R1 university, we are grappling with challenges of advancing our mission in these extraordinary times. UNT is developing an academic plan to reopen the campus for fall 2020 starting with the question of “How Can We.” How can we operate to maximally advance the intellectual development of our students and support their success? How can we operate in ways that support our goal of advancing as a research university? How can we continue to demonstrate that we are a creative and caring community?

After consulting with our academic leaders, faculty senate leaders and restart advisory groups, I am outlining several stages of increased on-campus academic operations to create a healthy and safe learning environment that supports our academic mission. This is a living plan that will be continually adjusted with the changing public health concerns and needs of our community. Implementing this plan will require everyone to contribute and work together for the success of our students and university.

Access to the July 28, 2020 Guidance for In-Person Teaching webinar is available through Bridge.

Continuity Stages

We are carefully monitoring public health conditions, including infection rates in our region and state and seeking guidance from county and state health officials. Beginning May 4th, we have been phasing in academic activities in preparation to resume in-person instructional delivery and student support services. The following offers further detail on key aspects of each stage of the plan.
Healthalerts.unt.edu
Healthalerts.unt.edu

**Ongoing Updates with Needed Information as it Evolves**
- Ongoing posting of messages for easy access to the latest information
- Green Boxes at the top of each page provide the latest information

**Resources and Quick Links**
- Training links to Bridge
- Contact Tracing links
- Lists building reopenings and links to hours

**Guide for Returning to Campus**
- Updated information as needed
- Links to planning forms and CDC resources
Thank you!

Please email President Smatresk with questions at untpresident@unt.edu.