



May 10, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

As you will have read in President Currall's recent message to our campus communities the University of South Florida, along with others across the State University System, will return to pre-Covid operations and classroom capacity beginning at the start of the *Summer B* session on June 28 and continuing through the Fall. This includes full in-person participation in athletic and social activities across our campuses.

With the Spring semester behind us, we must now look to ready ourselves to provide a full range of face-to-face on-campus operations and activities, including support for our students and faculty at pre-Covid levels.

For faculty teaching in *Summer A*, this transition will not impact you as that session comes to a close on June 25, 2021. Indeed, all members of the USF community should continue to follow our current [Covid mitigation measures and distancing protocols](#) until further guidance is provided.

For faculty teaching in *Summer C*, you will continue to deliver your course(s) in the modality posted in the class schedule. Any exceptions must be approved in advance (and in writing) by your college dean and can only be implemented after notifying all students enrolled in the class. For Classroom [CL], Hybrid Blend [HB], Primarily Distance Learning [PD] sections, you may see in-person classroom seat capacity increasing, beginning next month, as physical distancing requirements are removed and we witness an increase in activity on-campus as we return to pre-Covid operations, athletic, and social activities.

Please note that per [USF Policy 11-008](#), all course syllabi must be uploaded and visible in Canvas no later than seven calendar days before the start of the first day of the term. **For Summer A&C, your syllabi must be published today, Monday, May 10, 2021**, and please don't forget that **Spring 2021 grades must be submitted by tomorrow, May 11**. Also, I ask that you ensure that your syllabi are uploaded and visible for *Summer B* by Monday, June 21, 2021. Faculty will be notified of any changes to the Covid-19 core policy statements for syllabi in advance of the *Summer B* posting date.

I recognize that this announcement prompts many questions as we navigate another shift in our academic continuity and campus operations. As President Currall shared earlier, USF will continue to coordinate with the BOG and provide more details and further guidelines and resources for faculty and staff in the coming weeks, including an updated *Faculty Guidance and Advice for Summer and Fall* document.

I am also pleased to announce that we are launching a new and much improved *Faculty Success* website later this summer in support of our comprehensive *Faculty Success* initiative. This one-stop informational and resource tool will aggregate expertise and resources from across all three campuses to support faculty teaching and student learning, a faculty toolkit, research, innovation and partnerships, tenure and promotion, professional development and well-being.

As we prepare for a full return to campus in the coming weeks and months, our entire campus community's health and well-being remain our top priority. Recognizing that the health of our community is a shared responsibility, I would be remiss if I did not ask you to get vaccinated if you haven't already done so and to please encourage your students to do the same.

Last but certainly not least, I must once again thank you for your continued perseverance. To say that these are trying times is an understatement. Perhaps one of the most significant lessons learned over the last, now nearly 14-months, is that we must maintain an abundance of patience, flexibility, and compassion for ourselves, our colleague, and our students.

While a return to full campus operations offers much-needed hope and optimism about the future, it may also be one of the first opportunities for students and faculty who joined us last year to explore our campuses. For others, the return to face-to-face activities may bring familiar feelings of anxiety and trepidation that we experienced at the start of the pandemic. However, I am confident that as a community we will once again successfully navigate yet another new normal. Please, know that whatever you might be feeling at the moment, you are not alone. If you find yourself needing greater social interaction, please reach out and connect with your faculty and staff colleagues across all campuses. Always be mindful of your own physical and mental health and seek out [support](#) if needed.

I look forward to seeing you around campus later this Summer and Fall and, until then, please take care of yourselves and be sure to take some well-deserved downtime over the Summer.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your department head or college dean, or contact me directly at [provost@usf.edu](mailto:provost@usf.edu).

Sincerely,

**Ralph C. Wilcox**

Provost & Executive Vice President  
University of South Florida