



A MESSAGE *from the Provost*

January 5, 2022

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

Welcome back and I wish you well for a happy, healthy and productive New Year. As we head into another semester, I want to take a moment to thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for our students as we adjust to the seemingly ever-changing conditions. As a follow-up to President Law's [recent communication](#), I wanted to remind you that there are to be no permanent changes to instructional modality from that published in *USF's Spring 2022 Class Schedule* **without prior approval** from the Office of the Provost (which may be requested by a college dean/department chair through Dr. Cindy DeLuca deluca@usf.edu), or for USF Health through Dr. Javier Cuevas jcuevas@usf.edu. With that said, and consistent with longtime practice at USF, we recognize it may be necessary, on occasion, to adapt the delivery of in-person classes through temporary, [flexible components](#) to accommodate the short-term needs of individual students and/or faculty members who experience health issues.

As in prior semesters, if you have a student who is unable to attend required in-person class sessions due to health or related reasons, I ask that you please work with the student to provide temporary access to flexible instruction and learning rather than dropping them for non-attendance. Supporting the academic success of our students is paramount to fulfilling USF's mission. Students have been asked to notify their instructors if they cannot come to class during the first week or at any point during the semester due to COVID-related isolation or quarantine. If a student indicates that they are experiencing symptoms, please advise them to report to Student Health Services through the [Appointment Request Form](#).

If a faculty member is unable to meet their in-person instructional assigned duties due to health-related reasons, they are asked to work with their department chair to execute plans for a temporary substitute.

Additionally, the University expects everyone to properly wear face coverings when indoors although, as you know, we cannot require anyone to do so. Supplies of disposable face masks have been made available to each college so that you have them on hand to offer to any student not wearing a mask in your classroom.

Once again, I thank you for your understanding and willingness to adapt as, together, we seek to safely navigate the current surge in COVID infections.

Best regards,

Ralph C. Wilcox

Provost & Executive Vice President
University of South Florida

