

Answers to Questions regarding Teaching during COVID

- **Is there a good collection of material containing guidance about teaching in these times?** Yes, see both conceptual guidelines for quality teaching as well as “nuts and bolts” information about COVID prevention at: <https://www.fda.fsu.edu/>. The Important Policies memo, which has been revised to reflect temporary COVID policy changes, is also located on that site.
- **Do instructors need to wear masks at all times while lecturing?** They do.
 - What if there is Plexiglas on the podium? Same – they still need to wear it.
 - What if they have to play a musical instrument that requires their mouth be uncovered? This is about the only exception that we can think of.
- **Are instructors being “forced” to record classes?** No one is being “forced” to record class sessions. FDA recommends it strongly because any student can get sick or have to self-isolate at any moment this fall. If the sessions are not recorded, it will be much more difficult for the instructor to structure a make-up of that class session for the student. Also, if the instructor falls ill and cannot conduct class, a temporary replacement can use those recorded sessions to ensure continuity in the course. We are also strongly encouraging those in f-to-f classes to record everything possible for the same reasons.
- **Do students have permission to post an instructor’s class recordings on social media?** The Zoom (or Canvas, or whatever) recordings are the intellectual property of the faculty member and the University. They cannot be used by students for other purposes, and we have recourse if they do.
- **How should instructors handle a student who does not want to be recorded in a class Zoom (or other recording)?** Instructors should keep in mind that in rare instances, students might not feel comfortable being seen on camera. It’s possible that they live in circumstances that embarrass them, like in a car if they are homeless, or in other chaotic situations. An extreme example is someone who has been – or is currently – a victim of a violent crime like stalking and is taking care to protect their identity. Participation in simple class assignments can be used to keep track of whether the student is present that day, or they can set backgrounds that can blur or obscure their surroundings.
- **What about the student who doesn’t even want their voice recorded in class, even with their video turned off?** These situations would need to be handled on a case-by-case basis, keeping in mind several important issues. First, Florida law requires permission from a person to record them, but only when that person has a reasonable expectation of privacy in that setting. Second, agreeing not to record class sessions in response to one student’s request would limit other students’ (who need to be away from class for medical purposes) ability to access the course material. So it is important to tell students in advance that you will be recording the class and specify that the recording will be available only to members of the class.
- **What do I do if a student comes to class without a mask or is not social-distancing?** A set of step-by-step guidelines for managing COVID compliance is being sent out in a campus-wide announcement. Essentially, it encourages instructors to ask the student to comply, ask the student to leave if they do not comply, and to consider dismissing the class and sending a report through <https://report.fsu.edu> if the student still refuses to cooperate. As always, FSU Police (644-1234) are

willing to respond to serious disruption of a class that creates a risk to safety, at the request of an instructor.

- **Will there be extra masks in the classroom in case a student forgets?** No. Departments/schools can provide disposable masks to instructors who want to take some to class with them. Also, Student Affairs will be handing out masks to students on Landis Green and they will be available in vending machines across campus. Departments/schools who would like to request cloth masks for their own students (not entire classes) can request them from Student Affairs at: https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5b7TcwcwCzQ9XF3.
- **What if a student reports that they have contracted COVID-19?** Students are responsible for reporting their own positive COVID-19 test through the [Daily Wellness Check in the MYFSU Mobile App](#). However, instructors can help by reporting the student's positive test to the SAFER Team at COVID19@fsu.edu or through the myFSU portal at: <https://apps.its.fsu.edu/RUOK/app/safer/> . This will help FSU have timely information about the health of our students.

Questions about the questions?

Ask Jennifer Buchanan, Associate VP for Faculty Development and Advancement, at jbuchanan@fsu.edu.