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## Shifting back to in-person/hybrid instruction

1 message

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CU Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano <chancellor@colorado.edu>

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 3:19 PM



From the Chancellor

Oct. 7, 2020

[View on website](#)

Dear students, faculty and staff,

I am writing today with some encouraging news.

As you know, CU Boulder shifted to temporary remote course instruction, effective Wednesday, Sept. 23. The following day, [Boulder County Public Health issued a public health order](#) to prohibit gatherings for individuals aged 18 to 22 years old in Boulder, and placed the residents of specific off-campus properties under a mandatory stay-at-home order for 14 days.

During this time, our students have done an amazing job. We have seen a [significant decrease](#) in our number of positive cases through our on-campus diagnostic and monitoring tests, and a significant decrease in positive cases in Boulder County. Violations in the residence halls are down, and we are not aware of any summons from this past weekend for students hosting large gatherings on University Hill. I encourage our students—and everyone in our community—to keep up the good work and to keep these trends moving in the right direction.

With sincere gratitude for the outstanding work of our student body, **we will transition from our temporary remote teaching mode and [resume in-person/hybrid teaching on Wednesday, Oct. 14](#)**. We expect most classes to fully return to their original fall 2020 instructional modes by this date, with exceptions based on specific public health requirements and individual faculty requests, subject to department chair and dean approvals.

**Students can begin checking with their instructors this week for specific guidance on when and how to transition back to in-person learning experiences** (for courses that originally were in person, or included in-person components). Faculty and students should communicate with each other about expectations and preparations for returning to in-person learning. Faculty should consult with their department chairs and/or deans to resolve logistical challenges associated with the transition back to on-campus teaching activities.

Additionally, thanks to your actions, Boulder County Public Health has announced a new public health order today that initiates a “step-down” approach for gatherings of 18- to 22-year-olds in Boulder. There will be four status levels, depending on county COVID-19 metrics, ranging from no gatherings at all to gatherings of six individuals. **Students aged 18 to 22 years old should [continue to abide by all current COVID-19 orders](#) limiting gatherings to no more than two people through at least Tuesday, Oct. 13.** At that point, Boulder County Public Health will make a determination on adjusting those restrictions, and if the CU community continues to keep the numbers of COVID-19 cases down, students will begin to see greater opportunities for in-person social interactions. We know this has been a difficult period, but we’re making progress and need our students to continue engaging in the right behaviors to keep infections down.

Our students’ ability to have in-person social interactions also depends upon their continued participation in COVID-19 testing and contact tracing. All students who temporarily returned home during the past two weeks are strongly encouraged to get tested prior to returning or complete a monitoring test when they return. On-campus students will continue weekly COVID-19 monitoring testing under the protocols that have existed through the course of the semester.

We also need to demonstrate to Boulder County Public Health that we are providing testing for our off-campus students. We have expanded testing to accommodate 3,000 off-campus students, faculty and staff for testing each week. Up to 450 people can be [tested each day](#) at the [University Memorial Center](#) and 150 people can be tested each day at the [Sustainability, Energy & Environment Community](#) building on campus. I encourage our off-campus students, faculty and staff to get tested and help us detect COVID-19 cases early.

We also need students to participate in contact tracing. Not only is this required by the public health order, it is one of the best methods we have of protecting the campus and the community. Students will not be penalized in any way for engaging in contact tracing.

As for the 38 residential properties affected by the county’s stay-at-home order, they can emerge from previous health restrictions by instituting certain measures. [More information is available here.](#)

The decision to move back to our hybrid instructional model was made together with Boulder County Public Health based on a variety of factors, including our expanded testing and our progress in bending the curve. I am grateful for the actions you are taking to keep your neighbors healthy and for your resilience and support for each other. You have done a great job in containing the outbreak. If you keep following the guidelines, we can build on this momentum heading into the second half of the semester and beyond.

Please continue to take care of yourselves, and thank you for everything you are doing for the health and safety of our community. For questions and the latest guidance, you can visit our [COVID-19 website](#).

With gratitude,  
Phil

**Office of the Chancellor**

University Administrative Center, [914 Broadway](#), Boulder, CO 80309 | Phone: 303-492-8908



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## From the Chancellor: New county public health order begins at 4 p.m. today

1 message

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CU Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano <chancellor@colorado.edu>

Thu, Sep 24, 2020 at 8:28 AM



### From the Chancellor

Sept. 24, 2020

[View on website](#)

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

Thank you for your patience and resilience as we navigate the challenges of the fall semester in a pandemic. As a campus, we are committed to the health and safety of our surrounding community, and we continue to partner with local and state officials to make decisions to help protect public health.

I know the number of recent health and safety announcements may be taking a toll on you all, and I want you to know [we are here to support you](#).

There are three important public health updates I want to share with you:

- Boulder County Public Health enacted a [new public health order](#) **requiring all local city of Boulder residents between the ages of 18 and 22 to avoid gatherings of any size**, building upon the specific public health protocols included in the voluntary self-quarantine we announced last week. There are exceptions for certain class and work requirements. The county will reassess in two weeks, looking at whether there is success in reversing the curve of infection.
- As a further step to contain the outbreak and bend the curve among our undergraduate students, [the same Boulder County Public Health order](#) requires CU students at 36 specific off-campus properties that have been identified as either outbreak sites or posing an increased risk to the community, most being fraternities and sororities, to stay at home to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Affected residents: please read the guidelines thoroughly and **make sure you understand the specific requirements of this order**.
- Our campus was **listed this week in the state of Colorado's COVID-19 outbreak database because of the rate of infection and number of cases among our undergraduate student body**. This action was taken largely to allow public health authorities to consolidate and track COVID-19 cases in our community. Our recent actions—voluntary self-quarantine and a temporary shift to remote instruction—and the county's new order are both designed to help contain this outbreak.

For those in our community who have been infected with COVID-19, you are in my thoughts and I wish you a safe, full and speedy recovery.

While our campus supports the county's public health order, we are also concerned about the impacts it will have on our students. To support all of our students during this time, we will be providing additional care, flexibility and resources for your emotional, physical and academic needs.

- We are enhancing **access to campus health and wellness services** and ensuring students continue to have access to medical care, food and exercise.
- We are working to amplify **our lineup of remote events and programming** that provide social activities and virtual ways to engage for all students.
- We are also **offering flexibility, support and options for students who are struggling to succeed this semester** and would like to consider alternatives for how best to safely complete the fall term.

Ultimately, the choices before each of our students are clear:

1. You can stay in the Boulder area and continue to follow public health guidelines to protect our broader community, and we will support you in every way we can. This is the only way it will be possible to resume in-person instruction in as early as two weeks (though you may choose to continue remote learning at that time). Practicing physical distancing, wearing face coverings and avoiding gatherings are the main ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We strongly encourage students to stay in Boulder and to help reverse the spread by following the county order.
2. You can choose to return to your permanent residence and transition to **fully remote learning** for the remainder of the semester, and we will help you make this change so you may continue your education from wherever you live. Traveling home is not our preference and public health agencies have advised against it. Any students who are isolated or quarantined because they have been diagnosed or exposed to COVID-19 may not be able to travel. If, however, you are permitted to travel and this is your preference, **there are steps you need to take**.
3. You can choose to not follow the rules that protect our community from COVID-19 spread and run the risk of serious health consequences to yourself and others. There may be criminal penalties under the county public health order and/or suspension from the university via our student conduct code and health and safety policy. **Please do not choose this option.**

More guidance on the specific support services and options available for our students during this time is available through our **campus COVID-19 resources webpage**.

Like many of our peer universities across the country, we continue to face new challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some have enacted similar approaches to ours and are successfully reducing their positive cases. I believe we can as well, but only if we work together and make sacrifices for each other.

Please take care of yourselves, each other and our community.

Sincerely,

Phil DiStefano  
Chancellor

**Office of the Chancellor**

University Administrative Center, 914 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80309 | Phone: 303-492-8908

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## From the Chancellor: Shifting temporarily to remote instruction—minimum 2 weeks

1 message

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CU Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano <[chancellor@colorado.edu](mailto:chancellor@colorado.edu)>

Mon, Sep 21, 2020 at 10:19 AM



From the Chancellor

Sept. 21, 2020

[View on website](#)



# A Message From the Chancellor



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Dear CU Boulder students, faculty and staff,

Since we began the [two-week stay-at home period](#) for students last week, our COVID-19 cases have started to come down. To continue this downward trend and help protect the health and safety of our Boulder community, our campus will operate under temporary remote-only instruction for all undergraduate, graduate and law classes for a minimum of two weeks beginning Wednesday, Sept. 23. We made this decision in close consultation with local and state public health officials. While the student self-quarantine remains in effect, between Sept. 23 and Oct. 7:

- All undergraduate, graduate and law classes will be taught remotely.
- Labs, studio and performance classes will be remote, unless approved for an on-campus format by the appropriate college or school dean.

- Staff currently assigned to work on campus will continue to work on campus.
- On-campus research will continue and is not affected by this shift.

Today and tomorrow, classes will continue as planned as faculty make adjustments to prepare for Wednesday.

The provost's office will provide further guidance to faculty, and our Division of Student Affairs will provide further guidance to our students and families.

Your collective effort to comply with the student self-quarantine period is helping us bend the curve in our favor. Thank you and please keep up the good work. To solidify our progress, we are further increasing enforcement for the small number of students who violate public health orders.

Any serious public health violations by students, like hosting or attending large gatherings or breaking isolation guidelines, will result in an immediate 10-day suspension pending adjudication through [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#). More than a dozen students already received notices of such over the weekend.

I know this situation is extremely difficult, and I wish, as I know we all do, that our circumstances were very different. The next two weeks are about more than our ability to see each other in person. The risks to our broader community are too great, and COVID-19 spreads too easily, for any further noncompliance with public health measures to go without immediate consequences.

And so to the members of our campus community who haven't been abiding by [public health guidelines](#), let me be clear one more time: It is your responsibility to follow these protocols as someone who lives in the Boulder community and is part of this university.

Practicing physical distancing, wearing face coverings and avoiding gatherings—24/7, on and off campus—are the only way we will keep our broader community safe enough to return to an in-person campus experience. This may be the last opportunity for our campus to bend the curve of infection and return to in-person instruction before we are forced to move to remote operations for the remainder of the semester.

Please [visit the COVID-19 webpage](#), which has been [updated with additional details](#), for more information.

Let's prove we can do this and be Buffs together.

Phil DiStefano  
Chancellor

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### Office of the Chancellor

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