The Andrews Protocol

The [Corona Papers](https://benrhodes477.wordpress.com/), Post #1. For associated images and metadata, click [here](https://www.flickr.com/photos/190032975@N06/with/50349081927/).

Our first post is a journey through Andrews Hall. From the east side, go up the stairs and enter through the “Enter Only” door while a masked student departs from the other, which is marked “Do Not Enter.” We’re inside the main hallway. The soft overhead lighting reveals all kinds of new additions to the Andrews decor. Red circles on the floor tell us to “maintain 6 feet of distance.” Others plastered to the wall tell us the same. Signs above carefully-spaced benches announce that you can sit *here* but not *there*. A hand-sanitizing station sits in the corner. Down the staircase that’s marked “Down Only.” In the basement classrooms the red circles on the floor carry a different message: “Desk Here.” Smaller green circles tell us to sit at this particular point on the table. We cover the whole room, maximizing the space. When we leave we go up the “Up Only” stairs, single file, spread out, our masks still tightly on.

All these measures engage with the [readings](https://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/read/0bf2487d-ccb2-4388-bffd-275ee90a3c65/section/6ea34bdc-68a3-4b3b-bdd3-d383f4b6ff4a#ch14)[.](https://works.bepress.com/roopika-risam/27/) From Hunter et al. is the principle to “include rather than exclude,” and the coronavirus precautions do just that. They don’t apply to some students, or one, or a group, or just professors—*everyone* must follow them. The virus doesn’t discriminate, and neither do the precautions. It is truly inclusive to follow the same directions as everyone else. They also engage with Risam & Edwards’ concept of micro digital humanities—good work through low tech. Red circles and physically-spaced desks don’t require complicated software or expensive equipment. The precautions amount to a large number of very small (micro) pieces added together. Not going up the down stairs is free, and so is the hand sanitizer. It is inclusive to the highest degree, through means everyone has access to. Staley’s argument for making is quite apparent in the coronavirus measures: they’re all physical things. The red circles are right on the floor. Everyone must be six feet of physical space away from everyone else. The hand sanitizer actually squirts into your palm. The mask actually clings to your face.

*Copyright Ben Rhodes,*[*CC BY 4.0*](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)