

EMERGENCY ACTION: TO SAVE LIVES, INSTRUCTORS MUST IMMEDIATELY MOVE TO REMOTE ONLY INSTRUCTION

We call on every instructor at UNC-Chapel Hill to move all courses online immediately.¹

Yesterday the University reported its fourth cluster of COVID-19 infections in student housing.² Still, we don't know how many people are infected. University administrators have [misrepresented FERPA guidelines](#) to restrict this information. UNC has not disclosed if housing staff and other workers were alerted to the clusters, tested, or if they were infected. The University has wantonly gambled with our lives. Administrators collaborated with [distinguished health professionals](#) to maximize profits and reopen campus. Unchallenged support from health and medicine faculty helped solidify UNC's deadly roadmap and our current crisis. Now, to save lives, all instructors must move their courses online.

The [Roadmap](#) requires departments to provide various "[Modes of Teaching](#)" including Face-to-Face/ Hybrid, Hyflex, Remote and Recitation, and Remote Only. We have known for months the only safe class is a remote class. The students in the four announced COVID-19 clusters face [long-term health damages](#) and possible death. So will the people infected in the community. Instructors must move online to reduce community risk, mitigate long-term health effects, and save lives. There can be no alternative.

In addition to remote-only instruction, we urge instructors to reject meetings with University administrators who will undoubtedly make contact to reinforce the Roadmap until: 1) all students are offered a refunded release from housing contracts and meal plans, 2) at-risk students are safely housed in socially distanced dormitory rooms, 3) all students are guaranteed WiFi and tech stipends for remote instruction, and 4) all furloughed international graduate workers are paid.³

We maintain [our call for white tenured faculty to strike](#) and turn to all instructors with this request for emergency action. As graduate teaching assistants (TAs) and fellows we will work to enact remote-only instruction, but not all instructors are afforded equal protections, particularly TAs and fellows, therefore we ask department and program leadership to endorse our statement.⁴

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¹ This call excludes international graduate student instructors and courses established as Face-to-Face/ Hybrid with the explicit purposes of supporting international students who might otherwise face threats from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the University. Such courses must continue with extreme caution and, we demand, ongoing University supplied Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

² None of the announced cluster infections have been added to the University's official, public COVID-19 tracking [dashboard](#).

³ Items 1-3 are our suggestions for undergraduate student support, however we defer to undergraduate students and student organizations, like the Commission on Campus Equality and Student Equity, to set their demands. This summer, the Commission submitted [a resolution](#) with recommendations for equitable tech access.

⁴ Instructors should practice flexible class policies to accommodate student experiences with loss of life and the spiking student mental health crises.

ABOUT

The [Anti-Racist Graduate Worker Collective](#) is a collective of graduate workers from across the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) organizing together for the wellbeing and safety of our community. We come from a number of organizing traditions and backgrounds, but are united in our shared goals of dismantling white supremacy, heterosexism, cissexism, misogyny, classism, ableism, and settler colonialism at UNC. While we are pro-labor, we build power as workers outside of a traditional union structure because of the limitations faced by those structures in a right-to-work state.

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