Guide for Classroom Teaching During Covid

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Please read these guidelines carefully. They are based on the following principles:

- Safety comes first – not just mine and yours, but also that of those around us;

- The rules are strict, but self-policed and based on the honor system;

- It is up to you to choose between in-person and online instruction, and it's my job to ensure that the course works well in either format.

1 Classroom Delivery

In-person classes will be given simultaneously online. My plan is to bring my iPad and computer to class, hook the iPad up to the document projector, and use Zoom/Teams as before.

- **If you attend in-person,** you don't have to bring your laptop. I encourage you to look at the screen with the document camera rather than Zoom/Teams.

- **If you attend online,** then *in principle* everything should work as before. If you want to ask questions, please use the chat to ask them directly, or to ask to speak. **Expect glitches at first** – and please bring them to my attention so I can fix them.

- **It is your choice to attend in-person or online. You don't need an 'excuse' for not coming to LeConte.**

  In particular, if you went to a big party and may have been infected – then no need to give me any sort of explanation, but please participate online for the next week.

2 Safety Measures

These rules are stricter than the university's. Since the class will be delivered simultaneously online, we can prioritize safety while still ensuring a good learning experience for all. **If you don't want to follow them, that's fine but please participate online.**

- **Masks and social distancing** (6 feet) **are required at all times in LeConte.** Masks should fit snugly and cover the nose and mouth.

- **Do not come to LeConte if you might be infected with Covid-19, including:** (1) you have tested positive at any time in the last three weeks; (2) you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive; (3) you are experiencing Covid symptoms such as fever, loss of taste or smell, or shortness of breath; (4) you have experienced Covid symptoms at any time within the last two weeks and have not tested negative since then.

- **Please don't come to LeConte if you've been actively socializing without wearing masks.** Two or three people is okay, as are small and socially distanced outdoor gatherings – but if over the past week you've socialized (1) with a dozen or more people, (2) indoors, and (3) without masks on, then please participate online instead of in-person.

    Exception: If you've been infected previously, you can be a *little* more relaxed – but reinfection *is* a possibility, so please participate online if you are meeting a lot of people.

- Please don't touch anything you don't have to.

3   Contacting Me Outside of Class

- **I will hang around the classroom after class.** You are always welcome to ask me questions then.

- I can be available for questions *before* class **with 24 hours notice.**

- Scheduled office hours will continue to be online. You are always welcome to participate, no appointment needed.

- I am also available for in-person meetings by appointment. If the weather is nice **I might suggest meeting outdoors**.

- Homework may be submitted in-person or online. If you submit in-person, I will bring a folder and leave it open; please drop your work on top.

Please stay safe, have fun, and let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

4 Appendix – Criteria for Covid Safety

You don't have to read this section, but it explains the criteria I will use.

Hopefully we will be able to move class in-person soon and keep it there. Covid numbers are going down and are expected to keep going down. See for example the projections available here:

$$\text{https://covid19-projections.com/path-to-herd-immunity/}$$

However the situation could worsen again. The situation will be considered *safe enough* if **all** of the following conditions are met.

- (University Positive Rate) **A positive university-wide testing rate of under 3%**, averaged over the previous two testing periods, as measured by the UofSC Covid Dashboard:

  $$\text{https://sc.edu/safety/coronavirus/dashboard/index.php}$$

  As of February 2, the positive rate was 1.63% at the latest testing period, and continuing to decline.

- (South Carolina Case Load) **A 7-day statewide rolling average of under 1,500**, according to the data provided by DHEC:

  $$\text{https:}$$
  $$\text{//scdhec.gov/covid19/sc-testing-data-projections-covid-19}$$

  Since there is a lag between infection and reporting, the numbers will be linearly extrapolated one week into the future.

  As of the morning of February 5 this statistic is at 1,549. I computed this as follows. Currently data is reported through 2/2. The average from 1/29-1/26 is 3,037, and the average from 1/27-2/2 is 2,293. We have

  $$2293 - (3037 - 2293) = 1549.$$

  So **not good enough yet, but close, and improving.**

- (Bad News) We will move back online if there is suggestion that the situation will worsen – for example if a variant strain begins to spread rapidly, or if University or government officials announce new precautions.

- (Instructor Infection) Class will also be moved online if I have been possibly exposed.