

## Furman Fall Reopening Virtual Town Hall for Returning Students, Aug. 5

### Transcript of live Q&A chat

**Question: Hello again. I was hoping to hear about move in. I have a senior and a freshman. Are we able to move them in and go back and forth between both locations?**

Answer: All early arrival requests are being considered by a committee. Please send your request to [HousingandResidenceLife@furman.edu](mailto:HousingandResidenceLife@furman.edu) and we will forward your request to them. Thank you!

**Question: If my daughter returns as a junior and prior to returning on 9-12-20, Furman University cancels in person classes, will room and board be fully refunded to juniors?**

Answer: If Furman decides that a switch to remote learning is in the best interest of the campus community, then Furman intends to offer pro-rated refunds for lost use of room and board.

**Question: What does shelter in place mean for students? Will students be able to leave campus for work and other needs?**

Answer: Shelter in place is one contingency that might be used in case we need to slow any spread of the virus. This might include limiting/prohibiting visits to campus housing by all members of campus except the residents. Shared spaces would be dramatically limited, dining areas might be closed except for grab-and-go meals, academic buildings would be closed, the PAC might be closed, etc. Leaving campus would be regulated, but we realize students may have the need to do so. Again, this is one contingency, not the current opening plan.

**Question: When will a decision be made about Fall Sports?**

Answer: Waiting for the SoCon to make some decisions. Hope to learn more really soon.

**Question: We live in California and will not be able to bring our student home for quarantine if necessary. Where will students such as ours be housed if they need to quarantine or isolate? Will there be a guaranteed number of spots for long-distance students or others who cannot return home?**

Answer: We have set aside some apartments and residence hall suites for quarantine space. Yes, students who cannot go home will be able to quarantine on campus. The number of spaces will be finalized after 8/10 once we know what all students have decided about the fall semester.

**Question: What if we have to return to campus for athletic obligations, but we don't necessarily feel safe to attend in-person classes. Would we be allowed to attend just remote classes while still living on campus?**

Answer: A student can live in campus housing, but choose to attend their courses online.

**Question: I would love to hear any thoughts on how to encourage students to not congregate at Greenville bars where the risk of exposure is greater.**

Answer: We will be speaking very directly to students about risky behaviors that can put the greater Furman community at risk. Student leaders and RAs will help with this messaging. All students need to agree to adhere to the Paladin Promise.

**Question: Why are the spring housing of commuter students for the fall semester not secure when we are planning to be in on campus housing for the spring? If online student's housing for spring is secure, shouldn't students who need to commute be secure as well?**

Answer: All students who elect to be online this fall are guaranteed to have their original housing assignment if they return to campus in spring.

**Question: I received my housing assignment today for Friday, September 11th. How will classes be changed to ensure Sophomores and Juniors moving in during a weekday don't miss class material.**

Answer: Instructors are being made aware that many students in their courses will be moving and in transition on and around these dates. They are being asked to keep this in mind when designing their syllabi and flexible with assignments around this time. Also remember that instructors are preparing to make materials accessible asynchronously for remote learners throughout the semester. Still, we would encourage that you proactively reach out to your instructor to discuss your particular constraints.

**Question: Will there be space on campus in spaces like the library for commuter students or students who have roommates taking online courses at the same time as their roommate to take their Zoom call?**

Answer: Yes, study spaces around campus are available in the library, campus housing, Trone, etc.

**Question: What percentage of the student body has opted to enroll fully online?**

Answer: So far, approx. 10%. We won't know the final count until after Monday's deadline. Other schools operating in a similar model have experienced a similar percentage so far.

**Question: Have the in person vs. online been finalized at this time? At least based on the current environment. Understanding it can change as being discussed right now.**

Answer: The course listings are accurate based on the information we know right now. We would expect little change to the course modality (FurmanFlex vs. Online) in the near future, unless circumstances change, thereby requiring adjustments.

**Question: I see that some of the science courses, example Genetics BIO210, which have labs are also listed as online including the lab portion of the class. Can you explain how the online nature of the labs will work? Will the students need to source their own materials for "remote" labs?**

Answer: Our instructors who are teaching remote labs have been training this summer to devise a number of strategies to create effective engaged activities in a remote environment. For example, instructors might employ professional simulations (e.g., SimBio and Labster), posting videos of laboratory procedures along with data files that students analyze using appropriate statistical tests, customized Moodle activities in which students view photos/videos of specimens and complete interactive questions, to leveraging large online data sets for students to mine and answer important scientific (including public health) questions.

**Question: What training have you offered to the professors and teachers to better prepare them for teaching online?**

Answer: Over 100 of our instructors participated in extensive workshops over the course of the summer to help better equip them to effectively engage students in an online and Flex model. These instructors and others have been in a summer-long working group that has been producing education materials, including specific strategies and techniques, to help instructors more effectively design their fall courses.

**Question: If there is a “pivot” in a worst case scenario (fully online) will there be a pro-rated refund of room and board?**

Answer: Yes, if students are sent home.

**Question: How do you plan on mitigating issues/grade impacts regarding a junior taking a face-to-face lab course such as A&P with seniors who are able to physically attend and have that hands-on experience?**

Answer: (live answered)

**Question: How will you evaluate or hold the teachers accountable when they are teaching online? It is not easy for everyone**

Answer: (live answered)

**Question: I’m asking about commuter students. I’m asking what the difference is in the decision to commute for the semester versus be online. It shouldn’t affect my spring housing.**

Answer: Commuter students live at home with their parents, an exemption from the four-year residential requirement we have always offered. For those students and their families concerned about their health and safety on-campus, who live outside our commuting radius, we are offering an opportunity to live at home and take classes online.

**Question: Students committed to working and/or interning in Greenville but not starting until mid-September ... accommodations should be made so they are allowed to live in Greenville for the time being.**

Answer: It is presumed that students will be living at home during this period of time because of the quarantine requirement outlined in the Paladin Promise. Regardless of where students live, we expect Furman students to be good neighbors and practice physical distancing and other safety measures, including adhering to the Paladin Promise. If students return to Greenville for this temporary period, they should not be accessing the Furman campus for any reason. We are eager for our second- and third-year students to return to campus, but it is essential that we keep the density on campus lowered for the first four weeks of the semester.

**Question: My daughter is a senior and ALL of her classes are online-only even though none of these classes have more than 20 students. It seems that these classes can easily be social distanced. Is the reason for this because the teachers requested it?**

Answer: There could be several reasons why these courses are being offered as online classes. One of them may be because instructors requested this modality, or it may be because instructors are in a high-

risk health group. We would highlight that the drop-add period is currently open, and students are able to adjust their schedule, including moving to sections that are being offered in the FurmanFlex format with a face-to-face component. Please know students will be adjusting over the coming week, which may alter particular courses enrollments.

**Question: Is there anything you can say towards upperclassmen classes. As classes are being cancelled and rearranged based on professor availability, it seems that more attention is being paid to freshman intro courses rather than rising upperclassmen who have a limited amount of time here. How do you intend to allow seniors to get the credits and classes they need when there are only 2 or 3 over 300 level courses? Thank you**

Answer: We have done our best to provide a full slate of course offerings, while recognizing that some adjustments had to be made. We would recommend you reach out directly to your advisor to discuss challenges based on course offerings and how you can continue to make progress towards your goals.

**Question: What percentage of the student body chose fully online option?**

Answer: So far, approx. 10%. Won't know the final count until after Monday's deadline.

**Question: How do we know if a class is a hybrid, in-person, or online?**

Answer: The course is either marked "online" or not. If not, it will have an in-person element. The Furman Focused website under Academics and Classrooms provides a more thorough explanation.

**Question: We live in Greenville, will my son be able to stay at home and attend classes on campus?**

Answer: If your son is an approved commuter, he can take classes on campus. If he's a 2nd- or 3rd-year student, he can start coming to campus on 9/14 for in-person class.

**Question: Will commuter students be able to schedule appointments on campus with the Earle Student Health Center since they have become the main medical provider for the student body?**

Answer: If students are approved to be on campus, in-person visits at the health center are available. Please note that we will be offering virtual visits this year for those still local but not on campus.

**Question: What are the testing protocols? Are they based on where students are travelling from? Is it a certain percentage? When will it be? Will it be one-time or periodically throughout the semester?**

Answer: Dr. Wheeler is answering this question now.

**Question: will there be student printing available in the library and other places on campus?**

Answer: Yes, that will be available as normal.

**Question: What about CLPs? Will they be available online? Will they be eliminated for the future?**

Answer: The faculty will be making a decision about CLPs in the next couple of weeks. Students will receive an update about CLPs shortly afterwards.

**Question: Hey all. I feel for all of you in this decision, and there are no winners. We have been through it at Lafayette, and it is a grueling decision. Keep your chins up.**

Answer: Thanks, man ... Nice to see your name!

**Question: How will CLPs be done this year? Will they be waived for seniors? Will they be available virtually?**

Answer: The faculty will be making a decision about CLPs in the next couple of weeks. Students will be informed shortly afterwards.

**Question: ... but why is my SPRING housing going to be taken away because I need to commute for FALL semester?**

Answer: It's not.

**Question: If I choose to remain at home for the fall semester, will the room that I was assigned in my apartment be given to someone else, and I will be given a new assignment for the spring with random roommates in a random building?**

Answer: Students with a housing assignment for the fall semester who choose to live at home and take all classes remotely for the fall will have their housing assignment reserved for the spring 2021 semester.

**Question: We have already received communication from the president of my daughter's sorority that they are planning to "all get together" when they return to campus. How will sororities be regulated to ensure they are complying with guidelines? It doesn't appear they will be at all based on this communication.**

Answer: Student organization leaders will be receiving very specific guidance about social gatherings. More information is available at <https://www.furman.edu/furman-focused/campus-life-activities/>.

**Question: Can you please clarify whether second- and third-year students will be only having online courses, or did I misunderstand this?**

Answer: They will not be required to take all of their courses as online-only courses. All students have the options to enroll in FurmanFlex courses that have a face-to-face component. These Flex courses will make comparable instruction available for students who are taking the course remotely (e.g., for Sophomores and Juniors during the first few weeks). When Sophomores and Juniors return they can then participate in the face-to-face component of these classes. The drop-add period opens this week and students are free to adjust their schedule based on these needs (given availability).

**Question: Can you address the overflow housing in The Vinings? Thank you.**

Answer: We use The Vinings to house students for whom we don't have enough space on campus for. This year, we have used every available apartment there to create enough quarantine space on campus for students who are unable to travel home or elsewhere to quarantine or isolate this fall.

**Question: Can students who live in Greenville and choose the remote option have access to the Student Health Services on campus?**

Answer: Yes, if those students are approved commuters. Students who choose the remote learning option are presumed to be living at home.

**Question: What about students who want to do remote learning but not stay with their parents? Can they not get an apartment with friends and NOT commute/go to campus? I'm asking strictly about remote learning not in their parent's house.**

Answer: This question is answered in the FAQs at <https://www.furman.edu/furman-focused/housing-dining/housing-and-phased-return-faq/>.

**Question: If you are in Greenville but don't start until September, can you use the campus library? What about students with labs, can they do their labs in person?**

Answer: No. The goal of the staggered arrival is to maintain a low density on campus. We understand that you could access campus, but we are only permitting students who have been given permission to live on campus in September be able to use services such as the library or labs.

**Question: When will move in times be assigned for returning 4<sup>th</sup>-year students?**

Answer: These times are being posted now, and in fact many are already available. You can view it online in your housing portal.

**Question: What about the CLP requirement?**

Answer: There is a CLP proposal that accounts for the constraints we are under. This will be voted on by the faculty at the first meeting (August 20). Students should expect to hear the plans for the CLP program shortly after that date.

**Question: For purposes of social distancing, do balconies/patios in North Village suites count as their rooms or broader campus (masking, 6 feet apart, etc.)?**

Answer: Physical distancing still applies outdoors. Sitting on the porch with your roommate would not require a face covering. Sitting on the porch with a guest would require a face covering.

**Question: Will we have to make changes to our own schedules regarding which courses have been selected as online only or FurmanFlex? Will there be alternate courses to the ones we had originally selected? In the event that I choose to be on campus and take the FurmanFlex courses but half of my classes have been chosen to be fully remote.**

Answer: The web-based drop-add period is opening, based on class year, this week. You can find the day in which this opens for you on the Academic Calendar. Once that is open students can adjust their schedules to fit their preferences and needs, per availability. Remember that this process will be ongoing for all students, meaning enrollments in particular courses may continue to change.

**Question: Okay, I'm just confused because I had a short email conversation wherein you said my spring housing would not be secure because I am commuting and that I would need to participate in the housing lottery again even though I am in an apartment group and have been assigned a room. So, I'd like more information and to know that my housing for Spring is secure and not affected by my choice to commute for this semester.**

Answer: May I call you tomorrow morning – between 10-12?

**Question: If Furman decides to “shelter in place” and shut down all courses to online, why won’t Furman refund housing and meals on a prorated basis if the students decide that they do not want to be on campus and be required to take their classes all online?**

Answer: Shelter-in-place would be for a limited period of time. If it appears the appropriate contingency is to all be remote for a longer period of time, students would be sent home and room/board refunds would be issued.

**Question: Why has room and board gone up \$500 when you already said that they would not be coming back after Thanksgiving? Also, when they were sent home in the spring they missed almost 50% of their on-campus experience, but Furman only prorated a refund of 11%.**

Answer: Please contact [enroll@furman.edu](mailto:enroll@furman.edu) for more specific explanations about billing and refunds.

**Question: What metrics will be tracked and managed to determine if a pivot is required? I assume some health protocol will guide these decisions, but wanted to know if you had hard metrics that indicated the need to alter the plan.**

Answer: This question will be answered shortly.

**Question: How will you control students leaving campus and going into Greenville bars? And also how will parties in the North Village be controlled as there are many?**

Answer: Student agency is going to be fundamentally critical to our success this fall. If they cannot abide by the Paladin Promise, they should choose the remote option. We cannot police where students go off campus. We will be suspending Furman-sponsored activities off campus for the beginning of the semester. The Furman Police and RAs will continue to respond to parties in campus housing like they do every semester.

**Question: Where will students who are exposed or who test positive be quarantined? What steps are being taken to ensure that others living in buildings with quarantined students are not exposed?**

Answer: We have asked all students and their families to create a quarantine plan, as campus is not the best location for people to quarantine or isolate. For those who are unable to do so off campus, we do have a limited inventory of spaces across campus available.

**Question: About classrooms. There is concern about closed spaces and the worry that the AC helps move the virus around. What “guarantees” are there in place so that I don’t have to worry about my daughter getting this while in a classroom?**

Answer: Furman cannot guarantee anything, which is no different from any other semester. What we can tell you is we are doing everything that is being recommended by the CDC and other guiding agencies to prepare our campus for students to return. If students are concerned about being on campus, Furman has provided the remote learning option as a choice for students.

**Question: Will the parking permit be prorated based upon our assigned return time to campus?**

Answer: Yes, parking permits for 2nd- and 3rd-year students who don’t return until Sept. 11-13 are being prorated. The Furman Police department can answer more specific questions about parking.

**Question: Why is academic research being shut down until the sophomores and juniors arrive on campus?**

Answer: We are not aware that research is being shut down during this time. Rather faculty have designed methods to maintain their student-collaborative research during this time, both in an in-person and remote environment.

**Question: My son is a junior this year and had hoped to study abroad in the fall, which has already been cancelled, now hoping for the spring, which seems unlikely. If he cannot study abroad his junior year, senior year is going to be a hard time to do it due to the additional senior responsibilities. Will there be any attempts to try and facilitate study abroad for a semester in senior year and still graduate on time?**

Answer: Students can definitely participate in a study away during their senior year. Our best advice would be to proactively work with your academic advisor to devise a long-term academic plan that can incorporate a study away program as a senior.

**Question: Sorry if I missed this, but I'm wondering if there will be any opportunities for the online-learning classes to meet in person in smaller groups?**

Answer: Many of our online-only courses are being offered due to concerns of the instructor preventing face-to-face instruction, which would prevent such small group meetings. Remember, however, that any course that has a physical class location listed in the course listings is a FurmanFlex course, which will have an in-person instructional component.

**Question: If my son is assigned to The Vinings for fall, can he move in in August? Thank you.**

Answer: Our arrival plan applies to students who live on campus, including those who are assigned to live at The Vinings.

**Question: How will students earn CLPs for the semester, and how will this affect students who opt for remote instruction exclusively?**

Answer: (live answered)

**Question: The information that is being relayed in the answers to some of the questions here is not consistent with the information within the Housing Agreement that each student must sign. Can you ensure that the 2020 Housing agreement is 100% accurate with the information that it provides?**

Answer: Yes, the agreement is correct. If you'll email the specific items in conflict to me, [Ron.Thompson@furman.edu](mailto:Ron.Thompson@furman.edu), I'll be happy to follow-up with you personally.

**Question: Can you clarify once again about a commuter student whose classes are identified as all remote (not by his choice) and needing access to campus?**

Answer: An approved commuter student can access campus. If the commuter is a 2nd- or 3rd-year student, they must wait until Sept. 11 to access campus.

**Question: Are wearing masks required? Assuming so, how will this be enforced such that the onus is not on fellow students?**

Answer: (live answered)

**Question: The question above may be best known to Dr. Knowles.**

Answer: So, as long as a student has permission to be on campus, in-person visits at the health center are available. We are now doing a large amount of virtual visits as well, if you still in Greenville but not on campus.

**Question: Having a hard time finding a thermometer. Where would you suggest I find one?**

Answer: While we know some folks can find them in drug stores and online, we do have extra thermometers (new in box) available for students who are unable to get one.

**Question: How will CLPs be handled in this environment? Thank you.**

Answer: There is a CLP proposal that makes adjustments based on the current circumstances. This will be discussed and passed during the first faculty meeting on August 20. Students should expect to hear the details of the CLP program shortly after that date.

**Question: What is the reasoning behind not allowing the sophomore and junior members of the housing staff, orientation staff, etc. to attend class in-person despite those members already being on campus?**

Answer: The key here is that the goal of the staggered arrival was to maintain a low density in all campus locations. We recognized that some students had to be back on campus in various roles. Yet, we still need to maintain low densities where possible, including in classrooms.

**Question: When do the students, specifically sophomores and juniors need to start using the LiveSafe app to enter their daily temperature, symptoms, etc.?**

Answer: Once they return to campus, though I can tell you from my own experience that it takes a week or so to become a habit, so maybe start using it a week or so before returning.

**Question: Do students, who live in campus housing or The Vinings but choose to take all classes fully online, still have access to campus facilities, such as DH, PAC, Trone, etc. ?**

Answer: Yes.

**Question: Do students moving in in August need to start filling out the health verification survey daily on the LiveSafe app now or should they wait until they move in?**

Answer: I would encourage students to start using it now to make it a habit. From my own experience, it takes about a week to make it part of the normal routine.

**Question: How will Furman ensure that online/virtual instruction is more engaging and effective than it was last spring, especially for students who are not as skilled at teaching themselves (e.g., more opportunity for face-to-face interaction and discussion in real time)?**

Answer: (live answered)

**Question: I think my question may have been overlooked. Y'all answered whether or not remote learners can access campus. Can you please address whether or not remote learners have to stay in parents residence or may they reside where they choose as long as they do not interact with campus?**

Answer: This question is answered in full detail at <https://www.furman.edu/furman-focused/housing-dining/housing-and-phased-return-faq/>.

**Question: As a commuter our daughter has always purchased the 75 meal plan. As a sophomore with the four week delayed start and the week of online exams after Christmas she will not be able to use 25 of those meals. Will a 50 meal plan be offered? She definitely prefers the convenience of swiping and would prefer not to pay as you go.**

Answer: Please have her reach out to [enroll@furman.edu](mailto:enroll@furman.edu) to select a commuter meal plan. We are offering the 75 plan at a prorated amount due to the four weeks not on campus.

**Question: Will there be no asymptomatic testing for those coming from hot states?**

Answer: The turnaround time in the test from the point the sample is collected until the student would be allowed to return to campus (e.g., ~ 10 days for an asymptomatic test at private labs plus travel, etc.) makes a "pre-entry" test not unhelpful (students can return after 10 days of sample collection if asymptomatic even if testing positive). Further, unless tests are continued 2-3 times/week during the entire term, there is likely very limited value in a single point in time measurement. Please see the Furman Focused website Health and Safety FAQs for additional information around this question.

**Question: My student has an online course and the professor does not even have office hours. Why not?**

Answer: Professors typically communicate their office hours during the first class session via the course syllabus. In an online course these hours for interaction may be highly flexible, meaning it may be posted in a more dynamic way (e.g., Moodle). I would reach out the course instructor to inquire the best way to arrange for individual interaction in an online environment.

**Question: Will students be tested on arrival?**

Answer: In accordance with CDC and SCDHEC recommendations, there will not be "screening" tests upon arrival.

**Question: How are you going to be able to track students that are not staying on campus? We have heard of many that have gotten vrbo's and apartments. I don't see how that can be monitored.**

Answer: You're right, we cannot know where students who are remote learners are actually living. That said, remote learners will not have access to campus. More details available at <https://www.furman.edu/furman-focused/housing-dining/housing-and-phased-return-faq/>.

**Question: What is going to happen with CLPs? Is there going to be an online/remote option for folks who are not on campus?**

Answer: There is a proposal for the CLP program that makes adjustments given the circumstances. This is being discussed at the first faculty meeting on August 20. Students should expect to hear the exact

details of how CLPs will operate this semester shortly after that date. Please know that the program will accommodate students who have elected to be remote only.

**Question: Will we have to make changes to our own schedules regarding which courses have been selected as online only or FurmanFlex. Will there be alternate courses to the ones we had originally selected? In the event that I choose to be on campus and take the FurmanFlex courses but half of my classes have been chosen to be fully remote.**

Answer: The drop-add period has opened this week, based on your class standing. Please consult the Academic Calendar to determine when your drop-add opens. At that time you can adjust your schedule based on your preferences and needs, per availability. Remember this process is ongoing for all students, meaning enrollments in particular courses could be in flux.

**Question: Will the CLP requirement be suspended for the class of 2021?**

Answer: Faculty are meeting in the next couple of weeks to make a final decision about CLPs. Students will be informed about CLPs shortly after that.

**Question: If 2 of my roommates decide to spend the semester at home, will the school assign two random people to live in my apartment in their absence?**

Answer: That's not the plan, but we can't promise anything. We can tell you that your roommates can return to your apartment for the spring semester.

**Question: Jason, the FAQ only addresses commuters and those living in Greenville area. It does not address students getting an apartment as opposed to staying with parents.**

Answer: Furman's four-year residency requirement is still in effect. Therefore, only students who have been approved for an off-campus housing exemption should be living in the Greenville community for the fall semester. The purpose of providing a remote-learning option is to allow students who have concerns about their health and safety a way to continue their academic coursework and other academic-related experiences at their homes. Consequently, students who choose the remote-learning option should not be on campus for any reason during the fall semester. In addition to academic buildings, the PAC, dining facilities, athletic facilities, residence halls, the Trone Student Center, in-person library access, and in-person club and organization activities will not be accessible to remote-only students. These students' Furman ID cards will be deactivated for the fall semester, removing access to Furman facilities.

**Question: What is the future of club sports at Furman?**

Answer: More about club sports at <https://www.furman.edu/furman-focused/campus-life-activities/student-organizations-recreation/>.

**Question: Where exactly are these isolation bedrooms?**

Answer: (live answered)

**Question: As a junior who has to wait to move in, what happens if we do not get to move in? You keep saying "pro-rated" but will it be FULLY refunded?**

Answer: Yes, if Furman makes a decision that makes it not possible for you to come to campus, you will not be charged room and board.

**Question: Is there a link to the HIPPA release form?**

Answer: Students can access these forms in their Prisma MyChart account.

**Question: Why don't you re-test to assure that students are free of the virus before allowing them back into the community?**

Answer: This is no longer the recommended guidance for employees returning to work, students returning to school, etc. In some cases an individual may test positive for weeks for months due to the presence of residual viral protein but no longer have active or transmissible COVID infection. That said, we do encourage all students who are quarantined to take a COVID test a week into the quarantine period for their own knowledge/benefit and that of their family.

**Question: Many seniors require higher level courses for majors, I noticed a question was answered saying speak with your advisors. But often times, this is not realistic. There are 10 intro courses for every 2 upperclassmen level classes. While I understand that these classes tend to be "smaller" which is why they are being sacrificed, they consist of students who take these classes their last year at Furman. Why is there such an uneven offering of classes? There are many students concerned about being forced into a 5th year due to this uneven distribution.**

Answer: I answered your previous question. I have been directly involved with the course scheduling. To my knowledge there was not a significant shift in offerings towards introductory or upper-level courses (from what we would traditionally offer). I will say some of this could stem from study away programs being cancelled, and somewhat similar classes that would have been offered on those programs now being offered on campus (increasing the perception of lower-level courses). If you have a specific concern about your major or program, please feel free to send me a message with the details.

[kyle.longest@furman.edu](mailto:kyle.longest@furman.edu)

**Question: Do we have to wear masks within our residence, specifically in shared apartments?**

Answer: See top FAQ – <https://www.furman.edu/furman-focused/health-resources/health-safety-faq/>.

**Question: Will there be a charge or extra fee to students who may have to enter quarantine and cannot go home? I.E must use the Furman quarantine facilities?**

Answer: No.

**Question: What are the consequences for breaking the rules in places to keep students safe? This is not a light matter.**

Answer: (live answered)

**Question: Is there a particular type of face covering required? (Are medical masks adequate?)**

Answer: Cloth masks are strongly preferred – they are more comfortable, cause less irritation, washable/reusable and actually do a better job of trapping viral droplets. In an emergency, however, paper masks are acceptable. (See Furman Focused website for more details.)

**Question: With or without access to a community kitchen, why aren't students (not freshmen) permitted to choose a meal plan? If they need more swipes can't they just pay at that point?**

Answer: Meal plans were assigned for the semester based on housing location. If access to a private kitchen students do have the pre-assigned plan of 160 but may reduce to 110. With no access to a private kitchen, the unlimited plan has been assigned. The meal plans will be pro-rated in cost for the time not on campus but the number of meals will not be reduced.

**Question: Will there be any type of orchestra activity?**

Answer: The music department is making adjustments and we will know more soon about choirs, ensembles, bands, etc. If your student participates in these activities, they should reach out to their program director.

**Question: If my son decides to stay at home and commute this semester (lives in Greenville) can he resume living on campus in the spring. Also, can he attend on campus activities like CCM before the 9/14 return?**

Answer: Yes, he may resume living on campus in the spring, and will be able to attend campus activities as soon as his class begins to move on campus.

**Question: What type of social functions will be allowed? Other schools have announced things like outdoor movie nights, etc. Is Furman considering social activities like that? What will happen to the fraternities and sororities? Their houses were taken away and there is nowhere for them to gather even in small numbers. When will we know about football and who will be allowed to attend?**

Answer: (live answered)

**Question: What percentage of your students have been approved as commuters?**

Answer: The deadline for completing the intentions form is August 10th, therefore we have not considered those requests.

**Question: Will the students who are moving in later (September) receive pro-rated credits for room & board in their billing accounts?**

Answer: Yes. Bills should be adjusted by 8/7. If you have questions, contact [enroll@furman.edu](mailto:enroll@furman.edu).

**Question: Will intent be factored into conduct hearings?**

Answer: Yes, intent is always considered in the conduct process during the sanctioning phase if a student is determined to be found responsible.

**Question: Please stop using this valuable time to answer questions that have already been answered on the website. It is a waste of time, answer specific questions that we have not yet gotten the answers to.**

Answer: Different individuals are responding to different questions, but if you have a specific question that is not being addressed, please add your name and we will make sure to follow up after the event even if not answered here.

**Question: Schedules are not yet fixed. Students may order books as soon as they are but will B&N be able to ship books for timely arrival to Sophomores & Juniors?**

Answer: The answer is yes. BN will ship the books out as quickly as possible to all students not on campus. Any order over \$50 is free shipping. As soon as the schedule is finalized, please place the order online.

**Question: Why is the parking pass still \$90 if Freshmen and Seniors are only on campus until Thanksgiving. Further, Juniors and Sophomores do not get to come onto campus until September but yet they still have to pay \$90? What is the reasoning behind this?**

Answer: Remember, the semester is starting earlier than normal. Students returning in September will have their parking permit prorated. More questions about parking can be directed to the Furman Police.

**Question: Where can students find the forms they must fill out that are listed on the housing portal? On my child's portal all the forms say incomplete, but she cannot find access to them anywhere.**

Answer: Please email [HousingandResidenceLife@furman.edu](mailto:HousingandResidenceLife@furman.edu) and we will walk you through this personally.

**Question: If 2 of my roommates decide to spend the semester at home, will the school assign two random people to live in my apartment in their absence?**

Answer: There could possibly be a scenario where that space is needed in the fall, but those roommates will return to that assigned space for the spring semester.

**Question: Why do NV students at higher risk OR those worried about the safety of the dining hall required to get a meal plan? Monthly curbside pickup at grocery stores are significantly safer than the DH, regardless of health measures implemented. Is this policy financially motivated, health oriented, or both?**

Answer: Furman still maintains a 4 year residency and meal plan requirement as previously mentioned. We have added extra locations with to go options for students who are not comfortable to eat in the DH. Students will be provided an insulated grocery bag to carry all the containers as we are required to serve food in containers right now. By having all students have a meal plan, it reduces the off campus activity

**Question: What commitment do you have from Prisma Health for a timely turnaround of COVID tests? From what Dr. Wheeler stated, it sounds like by the time the test would be back, the quarantine period would be over. Have you considered using testing resources outside of the Prisma system to achieve a more appropriate turnaround time?**

Answer: Currently our Prisma COVID test turnaround time is 2-3 days.

**Question: What percentage of students are taking a leave of absence?**

Answer: Don't have that stat handy. We always have LOAs each semester though.

**Question: Will this thread of questions and answers be available after the meeting?**

Answer: Yes, we hope to make it available on the website, along with the recording. The recording will be available by the end of the week. The Q&A transcript may take a bit longer.

**Question: Will there be an ample amount of cleaning supplies available on campus during in class instruction? How are we going to ensure every classroom has Lysol wipes and sanitizer when it's almost impossible to find anywhere else. Similarly, how can we ensure students don't just take these supplies for their own personal living environments?**

Answer: Yes, we moved quickly during the spring to secure cleaning supplies for our campus anticipating we would be open in the fall. The cleaning supplies include the traditional, as well as new electrostatic sprayers that clean more effectively, and more quickly.

**Question: Mr. Thompson – did you just say the cabins are being reserved for quarantined students? My student is scheduled to live there this year.**

Answer: Two of them are, however those with students assigned to them will see no change in their experience, or where they are assigned to live.

**Question: The invoices Furman posted for the fall included a full semester of room and board. When will the revised invoices be posted for sophomores and juniors so that we can pay the correct amount?**

Answer: Yes, this will be adjusted as soon as we process the submissions to the remote learning and commuting requests via the online form. The form closes August 10th.

**Question: What percentage of tuition is being returned to those living off-campus learning remotely?**

Answer: Tuition is not being discounted, only room and board.

**Question: Ron, please clarify the information you shared about the kitchens. My child is a senior and scheduled to live in a north village apartment – 4 private rooms and a kitchen. Are you saying that the students in the apartment will not be able to make meals/cook in the apartment?**

Answer: We have disabled the preparation of food in the shared kitchens in the residence halls. This does not apply to the apartments.

**Question: If 2 of my roommates decide to spend the semester at home, will the school assign two random people to live in my apartment in their absence?**

Answer: We are working to consolidate as many openings as possible to maximize the quarantine space available. Therefore, it is highly likely that others will be moved into those openings for the fall term.

**Question: Can you staff the gates to restrict the coming and going of on campus students and Greenville Residence?**

Answer: The Furman Police will be monitoring the gates more than normal. Currently, the only access point to and from campus is the front main gate. That will change once the semester starts, but the gates will close in the evenings and weekends.

**Question: My son knows that he does not need an unlimited meal plan. Are you still requiring the unlimited meal plans?**

Answer: Any student living in a residence hall that does not have access to a private kitchen has been assigned to the unlimited meal plan. This is to reduce off campus activity to help maintain a healthy environment.

**Question: Are students that are scheduled to live in the cabins in the fall still able to do so?**

Answer: Yes.

**Question: As an educator, I am very pleased with what Furman was able to put together. Great job!**

Answer: Thank you. That's great to hear.

**Question: If a local student opts to commute (as per previous question) and return in spring will their same room assignment be available? If not, how can you reserve it?**

Answer: Yes, spring assignments are guaranteed for those who are remote or commute for the fall.

**Question: For students who must quarantine but whose home is not close by, yet do not want to quarantine on campus, can their quarantine start on campus but finish elsewhere? For example, we are a 10 hour drive away — I could come get my daughter if necessary, but it would take a day or two to make arrangements.**

Answer: We appreciate that there will be instances such as this and will work together provide a quarantine space , meals and online instruction and telehealth check in visits while in quarantine on campus until a parent is able to come.

**Question: Ron, just wanted to check about the air in North Village apartments. In Hong Kong where we live most of the year there have been issues of clearing some apartment flats in a line— so all the B apartments across floors—iie the B units regardless of floor bc of shared drainage. This happened w SARS and also w COVID. Air flow is also a concern sometimes. I assume that students isolated or quarantined in an apartment in North Village— there is no shared air through HVAC etc. w non quarantined residents of North village . Hope the question makes sense. Thank you for all you are doing!**

Answer: Hi Elisa – It's nice to hear from you. I hope you and your daughter are well. All of our decisions to open are based upon the local, state, and federal guidance for shared residences. If you have specific HVAC questions, I'd recommend you reach-out to Jeff Redderson, Associate Vice President for Facilities Services. He would be the best person to answer your questions about this.

**Question: If a student arrives to Furman to attend in-person classes but then determines that returning home would be the best option for them, will that be allowed? And will they receive a housing refund for the given time not utilized?**

Answer: A student could decide to return home and be remote after the semester starts. But any refunds will be based on the normal proration that's outlined in the catalog.

**Question: Do we as parents need a HIPPA release form for our children? Do you recommend a medical proxy?**

Answer: On the MyChart app your student will be able to designate a parent as a contact and allow for the medical information to be discussed.

**Question: On the topic of academic research, the Furman Focus website states that on the topic of sophs and juniors who arrive early, it states that they all must participate in remote learning until September 14. "This also applies to other academic-related experiences, such as research and music." Has this been changed?**

Answer: No that is correct. But faculty who lead this research have devised ways to maintain the research progress in a remote learning environment for these students.

**Question: Ron, as a follow-up to my question about moving random people into my apartment to fill vacancies due to roommates spending the semester at home, will my original roommates get their original assignment back for the spring semester? Or will they be given a new assignment with random roommates in a random apartment?**

Answer: Yes, spring assignments are guaranteed to those who are not on campus for the fall.

**Question: How is communal sharing of hall bathrooms being addressed to minimize risk?**

Answer: Students are being asked to clean after themselves with the supplies provided, and our custodial team will be doing full cleans of bathrooms multiple times daily 7 days per week.

**Question: If a student is moved into a space that has opened because the previous student opted for remote learning, what will happen in spring semester? Will the original student keep their space and the second semester be moved?**

Answer: All students who elect to be online this fall are guaranteed to have their original housing assignment if they return to campus in spring.

**Question: If I'm moving in in August should I start filling out the daily health verification now or do I only need to start doing that once I am on campus?**

Answer: I would suggest at least filling the survey out once prior to your return so that you can be aware of what types of questions are asked. Once you are on campus, we ask that you continue daily.

**Question: As of today, are the classes assigned (flex, hybrid, online) for fall... or should we expect more changes?**

Answer: These should be stable at this point. There of course may be alterations to the course modality if circumstances dictate going forward.

**Question: Will students be given masks? Are there "Furman" masks available for purchase?**

Answer: Yes – students will be supplied with 2 masks and more are available for purchase in the Bookstore.

**Question: What is the HVAC air handling for north aparts?**

Answer: Each apartment has its own stand-alone geo-thermal air conditioning unit supplying 100% conditioned outside air.

**Question: If my junior cannot make the arrival window of 2 hours due to flight restrictions can there be flexibility? It is difficult as there is one 1 am and 1 pm flight per day.**

Answer: Contact Housing & Res Life at [housingandresidencelife@furman.edu](mailto:housingandresidencelife@furman.edu) and they will work with you.

**Question: At what percentage of student affected with COVID will result in a campus closure?**

Answer: There no single number or factor that will determine this decision. In addition to % and trend in students who have active infections, rate of positive tests, quarantine space, student behaviors, faculty and staff infections, etc., we will also consider community data such as hospital space, Governors orders, etc.

**Question: Are paper (disposable masks) acceptable?**

Answer: Yes.

**Question: If we decided to opt for the virtual option, will our classes that are listed as in-person not available to us anymore? These classes are major requirements for me and I need to be able to take them in sequential order in order to graduate on time.**

Answer: Remember if a class has a physical location that means it is FurmanFlex, which will provide for remote learning options. Meaning you could take these courses even if you selected the virtual option. If you believe that there is a course that is only being offered as in-person, please reach out to your advisor to clarify.

**Question: So do we only have 2 hours to move in or do we just have to check in by the time our window closes?**

Answer: It's important that students are present and ready to check-in at the start of their arrival window. They will be expected to be finished moving items into their room/suite/apartment by the end of their 2 hour window.

**Question: Under what heading in the housing self-service portal is the move in time located under?**

Answer: This is found in your MyFurman portal. If you cannot find it, please email [HousingandResidenceLife@furman.edu](mailto:HousingandResidenceLife@furman.edu).

**Question: How do students moving in during class in session handle load of course requirements? Will they have that Friday off, less work load or a mix of both?**

Answer: Instructors are aware that many students will be moving and in transition around those Sept 11 dates. They are being asked to consider this in designing their syllabi and assignments. Please reach out to your instructors to discuss your specific constraints.

**Question: Will students who have already had and recovered from Covid19 (documented antibody positive) be managed differently if they have an exposure? i.e. will they be expected to quarantine in a similar manner?**

Answer: Because there is still risk of re-infection, quarantine would still be required if there is a true close exposure to a COVID positive student.

**Question: Are waivers accessible to the students yet?**

Answer: Students received an email earlier today with information about the online training, Paladin Promise, and the documents that need to be acknowledged prior to moving in.

**Question: are the apartments being reserved for quarantining COVID inflected people in north village double or single bedroom apartments? Curious because my daughter's apartment group is currently placed in a double bedroom apartment and I feel like it would be smarter to move groups into separate rooms and leave single room apartments for quarantining.**

Answer: We are using every type of unit available for quarantine, from residence hall apartments, to suites, to North Village private and shared bedroom apartments.

**Question: Greek Life?**

Answer: There are some guidelines for student orgs and fraternities & sororities on the Furman Focused website – if you have a specific question about recruitment or events, please feel free to email us!

**Question: Will students be required to wear masks in the gym?**

Answer: Yes

**Question: Will face coverings be required while using cardio equipment in the PAC?**

Answer: Yes, best opportunity for cardio will be outdoors where masks are not required outside of 6' distancing.

**Question: Ron, as a follow-up to my question about moving random people into my apartment to fill vacancies due to roommates spending the semester at home, will my original roommates get their original assignment back for the spring semester? Or will they be given a new assignment with random roommates in a random apartment?**

Answer: All students who elect to be online this fall are guaranteed to have their original housing assignment if they return to campus in spring.

**Question: My mother and I are going to be moving everything in by ourselves. If we need more time to move in will that be allowed? Currently I am living in an apartment and no one else will be there when I am scheduled to move in in August.**

Answer: Please send a request to [FurmanFocused@furman.edu](mailto:FurmanFocused@furman.edu) and we will consider your request for an adjustment to your move-in time.

**Question: Will there be any gym access, trainers or physical "recess" options?**

Answer: The PAC will be open for student access only. Faculty, staff, and community members will not be allowed to use the PAC for the fall semester.

**Question: Apologies if this was already answered as I joined late. Some schools are testing dorm waste water to effectively detect presence of Covid and quickly test/isolate positives students. Is this part of the plan?**

Answer: Not at Furman, some large research universities that house many thousands of cases are using this as a community transmission model. At Furman we do not believe this data would be helpful on our particular campus.

**Question: Will the public have access to spend time on campus during the semester?**

Answer: No, the campus will remain closed to the public (not including family members of current students). There is more information about visitation policies and public access on the Furman Focused website.

**Question: My third yr. student received notification to move to the Vinings on Aug. 15 and we have purchased the 160 meal plan, when can she utilize the meal plan, when can she utilize the library and other on campus facilities?**

Answer: The meal plan begins with first year student move in on August 12. If your student has been approved to return early, the meal plan will be active.

Question: Will the Furman Focused website have an update section to report the number of cases in campus?

Answer: (live answered)

**Question: If my student is planning to attend in the fall, who do we contact if they contract the virus before they return?**

Answer: Please contact Student Health Services.

**Question: If there is a significant outbreak that leads to a “brief remote period “ of online but remain on campus— what’s a brief period— is it two weeks minimum?**

Answer: Depends on how quickly the situation might improve based on the metrics, but could certainly be less than two weeks if conditions warrant

**Question: I have completed two of the three required return messages. I have completed the Assumption of risk, and the Paladin Promise requirements however, they have not been updated in my housing portal.**

Answer: Please email [HousingandResidenceLife@furman.edu](mailto:HousingandResidenceLife@furman.edu) and we will help you with that personally.

**Question: If living in the apartments and 3 other roommates (single bedrooms) are not returning (2 doing virtual, 1 taking the semester off), what will happen? Will these spaces be filled with other students during the fall semester or will they be empty?**

Answer: We are working to consolidate our openings by moving some students into open spaces so we can maximize the inventory of quarantine spaces available.

**Question: Will these Q & A’s be posted?**

Answer: Yes, we will share these Q&As along with a recording of the webinar.

**Question: If a roommate decides to stay home for fall, and a random student is assigned to that room, will the original student be promised that spot when they return? Students are upset that roommate choices may not be honored**

Answer: All students who elect to be online this fall are guaranteed to have their original housing assignment if they return to campus in spring.

**Question: Dining Hall changes?**

Answer: See Furman Focused website for additional information. Significantly reduced seating capacity following state guidance to promote distancing, many more grab and go opportunities, etc.

**Question: It would be great to hear a brief overview from Ms. Vuksta.**

Answer: (live answered)

**Question: Will the student need a thermometer?**

Answer: Yes, we encourage you to bring a thermometer with you.

**Question: My son initially opted to return to campus but now is not sure. How do we go about changing to remote?**

Answer: The request form closes on August 10th. He is welcome to submit the form again with a different plan. We will use the most recent submission for those who submit multiple times.

**Question: Our student is graduating, all his classes are remote not by his choice, he will be living at home in Greenville, however he needs to be in his capstone lab or risk not having the ability for a job, grad school, med school, etc. Did I just hear that he will NOT be allowed onto campus to complete his lab when required by his prof?**

Answer: If the student is a senior, they would be able to participate in these opportunities. If the student is a sophomore or junior they can participate in these opportunities virtually until Sept 11 and in-person after that date.

**Question: Can commuters utilize the library when they are approved to return?**

Answer: Yes.

**Question: What about the crepes restaurant?**

Answer: Sweet and Savory was scheduled to be switched out this fall.

**Question: I have reached out in the past week regarding part time student status for my sophomore and have not heard back from anyone. I understand that everyone is doing their best to address all concerns, but if you could pass my name on to enrollment services, I would like to speak with someone as soon as possible. Thanks so much.**

Answer: Please email [Furman.focused@furman.edu](mailto:Furman.focused@furman.edu).

**Question: Thank you all for your all your efforts. We really appreciate it.**

Answer: Thank you for attending.

**Question: Thank you for hosting the Town Hall.**

Answer: Thank you for attending.

**Question: Where do you go to check in if you are assigned to the Vinings Apartments?**

Answer: Students assigned to live at The Vinings will check-in at The Vinings.

**Question: Thank you all for your time!**

Answer: Thank you for attending.

**Question: Ron in response to my previous question of 3 roommates not returning: So does this mean that there will be 3 random students assigned to my apartment or just 1 on the other wing of the apartment?**

Answer: Yes, there may be three new roommates, or you may be offered a different room. If you know three students with whom you'd love to live, we'd be happy to make that change for you.