

Furman Virtual Town Hall for Students and Families, Jan.12

Transcript of live Q&A chat

Question: K-12 schools around the country are having in person classes with little to no COVID transmission from student to student. Why can't Furman have in person classes with masks?

Our plan is to have in-person classes starting on 1/25. We will start remote for the first four days of classes to make sure any infection rates on campus are minimal. A significant difference between the fall and spring is the community infection rates, so we are going to test all of our faculty and staff, along with students next week. We just want to take every reasonable precaution to make sure we start well as 2,000 students return to campus after being home for almost two months.

Question: How many Furman students were hospitalized with COVID in the fall semester?

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Question: Did he just say you are going to have surveillance monitoring? What does he mean by that?

Surveillance monitoring is testing asymptomatic students and employees. For the first two weeks, we will test everyone. After that, we will most likely work towards our fall semester testing model, which was a random sampling of 20% of students each week.

Question: All but one of my daughter's classes are remote. Not by choice! There were not options available for her major for in person! I question those statistics presented on this town hall.

Apologies that [your student] did not get the courses that she wants, or at least in the format that she prefers. The statistics are accurate, but we realize this does not appear to be [your student's] individual reality. I would encourage her to reach out to her advisor, or the Academic Dean's office for guidance. Again, apologies. [Dr. Cassidy]

The statistics are indeed accurate. Science courses have a greater prevalence of online teaching, based on a variety of factors. [Dr. Cass]

Question: What dining areas can students use their student IDs at no additional cost?

All options described accept meal swipes, meal exchange, or PalaPoints, which are included in each meal plan. Please reach out to Tony McGuirt directly if you have additional questions on this.