



# Board of Regents Special Meeting

August 2020

August 24, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Videoconference

## BOR - AUG 24, 2020 - Special Meeting

### 1. Resolution Related to Fall 2020 Course Modality and Move-In - Review/Action

Docket Item Summary - Page 3

Resolution - Page 6

Presentation - Page 7



# BOARD OF REGENTS DOCKET ITEM SUMMARY

---

Board of Regents

August 24, 2020

**AGENDA ITEM:** Resolution Related to Fall 2020 Course Modality and Move-In

Review

Review + Action

Action

Discussion

*This is a report required by Board policy.*

**PRESENTERS:**

President Joan T.A Gabel  
Rachel Croson, Executive Vice President and Provost  
Michael T. Osterholm, Director, Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy; Regents Professor and McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair in Public Health, School of Public Health

## PURPOSE & KEY POINTS

The purpose of this item is to review and act on the *Resolution Related to Fall 2020 Course Modality and Move-in* to change the modality of fall course instruction and delay residence hall move-in for the Duluth, Rochester and Twin Cities campuses.

While the global COVID-19 pandemic continues to take a tremendous human toll and disrupt daily life in countless ways, the University remains steadfastly committed to its three-part mission: research and discovery; teaching and learning; and outreach and public engagement. Fall 2020 will be unlike any other in the University's history, but the overarching goal remains the same – provide opportunities for students to advance their education in a safe environment.

Since the Board of Regents adopted the *Resolution Related to Framework for Delivering Academic Mission in Fall 2020* in June, two factors have recently emerged:

1. Michigan State University, the University of Maryland, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Notre Dame, Illinois State University, and dozens of others have delayed resumption of in-person instruction or shifted to online-only instruction for fall semester. Some proactively shifted their approach based on conditions within their state, while others reversed course due to COVID-19 outbreaks after bringing students back to campus. More institutions are likely to follow, despite the significant disruption such decisions cause.
2. Federal guidance seems to be changing with respect to higher education. Although social distancing, masks, and hand washing remain as primary tools to combat COVID-19, testing and contact tracing also play a key role in managing spread of the virus. Colleges and universities have adopted varying testing strategies in compliance with federal, state, and local public health guidance. The University of Minnesota's strategy relies on testing anyone who presents with symptoms, and anyone who believes they may have come into contact with someone who has the virus. Federal guidance may now be leaning toward mass testing on a repeated basis, which is something most colleges and universities were not planning and are not equipped to accomplish.

As a result, the president recommends the following, as outlined in the resolution:

- Pivot undergraduate courses for Duluth, Rochester, and the Twin Cities to be wholly online for at least the first two weeks of fall semester, with some limited exceptions. Students will be informed by their professors of how their courses will change. Graduate and professional students will continue with their schedule as communicated previously by their programs.
- Postpone move-in dates for University housing on the Duluth, Rochester, and Twin Cities campuses by at least two weeks to provide additional time to evaluate new and emerging federal guidance on testing, as well as continued evaluation of techniques used at other institutions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This two-week window will help the University avoid moving large numbers of students into on-campus housing and then moving them out again if public health conditions eventually require distance learning for the remainder of the fall semester. If it is too late to delay travel plans, if University housing is a student's safest and best option, or if a student is concerned about international student status, the University will work with them to ensure they have a place to stay on campus.
- Provide prorated refunds or comparable financial accommodations for housing and dining services during the period of delay.

Plans will continue as scheduled for students to move into University housing in Crookston, and students who have already moved in on the Morris campus will remain. The approach for Crookston and Morris is different because of timing and because both campuses operate in communities where the virus continues to present at relatively low levels. Given the small sizes of these campuses, the administration believes the likelihood of viral transmission is also reduced. The President and Chancellors are closely monitoring the situation, in consultation with the Health Emergency Response Office and local and state public health officials. They will continue to revisit the plan daily and make any adjustments necessary to protect the health and safety of these campuses.

During this two-week period, students living off-campus in Duluth, Rochester, and the Twin Cities will be advised to limit campus visits to academic and student health services, and to follow public health guidance about physical distancing, masks, and basic precautions like hand-washing. Faculty and staff who have already been approved to be on campus through the Sunrise Plan may continue with their work. All other faculty and staff will be advised to continue working from home.

This two-week window will allow the University to take stock of the public health climate and evaluate the University's testing strategy. If needed, adjustments can be made to testing, in-person instruction, and/or other elements of campus life to decrease the likelihood of a COVID-19 outbreak. This is especially important on the University's campuses in cities with higher population density. If the Board adopts the proposed resolution, the administration plans to complete its evaluation, make any needed adjustments, and announce next steps quickly.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Board previously discussed related topics at the following meetings:

- July 2020: *Update on the University's COVID-19 Testing Plan*, Board of Regents
- June 2020: *COVID-19 Pandemic: Framework for Delivering Academic Mission in Fall 2020*, Mission Fulfillment
- May 2020: *COVID-19 Pandemic Preliminary Operational Impacts*, Finance and Operations
- May 2020: *COVID-19 Pandemic: Preliminary Academic Impacts*, Mission Fulfillment

**PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION**

The President recommends approval of the Resolution Related to Fall 2020 Course Modality and Move-In.



## **REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

### **RESOLUTION RELATED TO**

#### **Fall 2020 Course Modality and Move-In**

**WHEREAS**, due to safety measures necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Minnesota (University), like universities and colleges across the country, has made extensive plans to offer Fall 2020 courses via multiple modalities, including traditionally in-person classes being offered in a distanced format; and

**WHEREAS**, the University has made these plans in full alignment with public health guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, higher education institutions such as Michigan State University, the University of Maryland, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Notre Dame, Illinois State University, and dozens of others have recently delayed resumption of in-person instruction or shifted to online-only instruction for fall semester, with more institutions likely to follow; and

**WHEREAS**, federal guidance seems to be changing with respect to higher education.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Regents hereby authorizes the president to change the modality of fall course instruction and delay residence hall move-in for the Duluth, Rochester, and Twin Cities campuses, as follows:

- Pivot undergraduate courses for Duluth, Rochester, and the Twin Cities campuses to be wholly online for at least the first two weeks of fall semester (at least September 14 for Duluth campus and September 22 for Rochester and Twin Cities campuses), with limited exceptions; and
- Postpone move-in dates for University housing on the Duluth, Rochester, and the Twin Cities campuses by at least two weeks (at least September 9 for Duluth campus and September 13 for Rochester and Twin Cities campuses) to provide additional time to evaluate new and emerging federal guidance on testing, as well as continued evaluation of techniques used at other institutions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and
- Provide prorated refunds or comparable financial accommodations for housing and dining services during the period of delay.

# Board of Regents Special Meeting

**Joan T.A. Gabel**  
President

**Rachel Croson**  
Executive Vice President and Provost

**Michael Osterholm**  
Director, CIDRAP

**August 24, 2020**

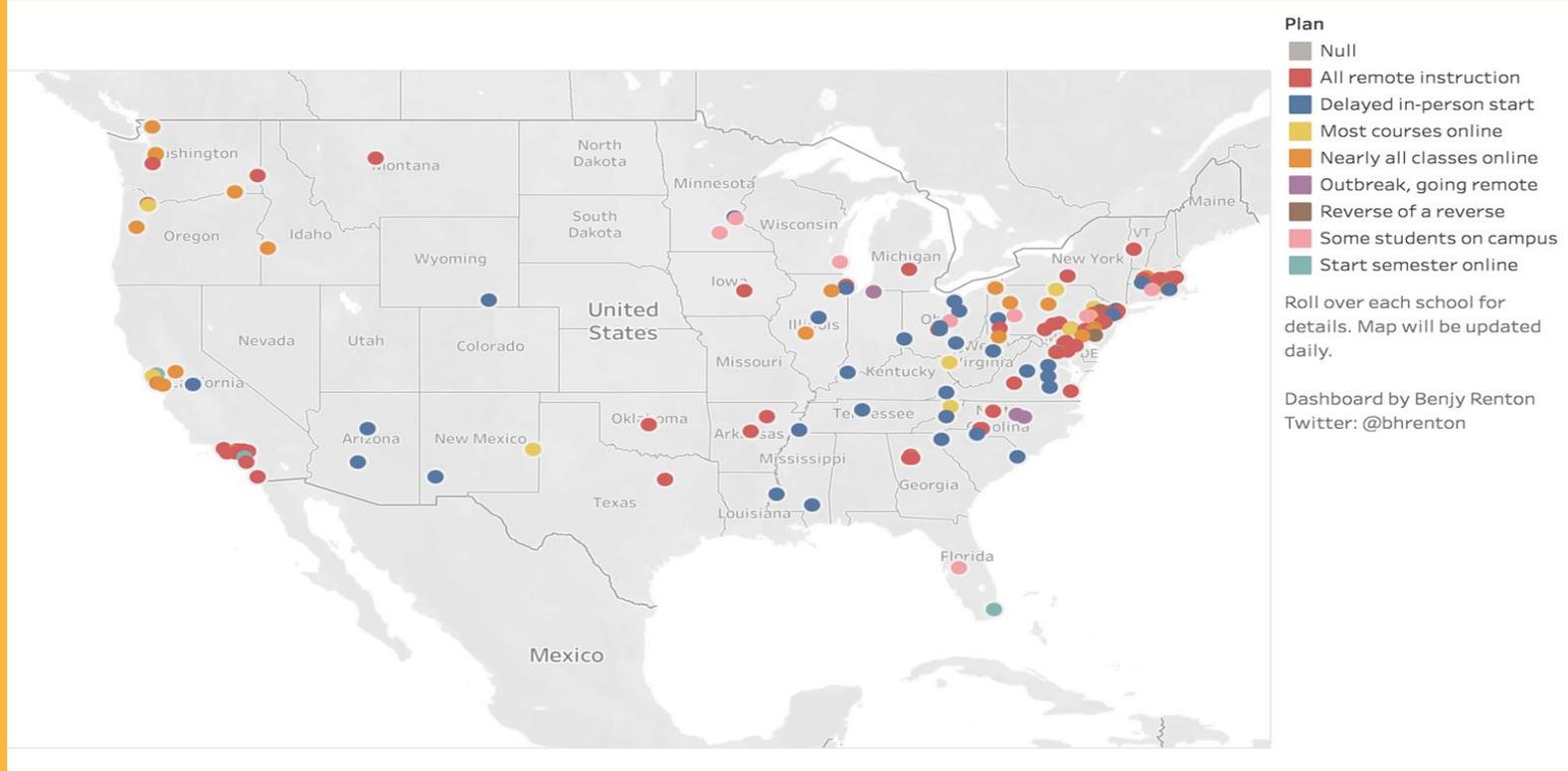


# Context

- Education, as safe as anywhere
- Outbreaks on campuses around the country
  - Chapel Hill (566 cases; 13.6% positivity rate, pivoted) (NC State 270 cases)
  - Notre Dame (336 cases; 17.3% positivity rate, two week delay; pre-arrival testing 0.28%)
  - East Carolina (>100 cases, outbreak in residence hall due to parties)
  - Tennessee (105 cases, 28 cases to 97 cases in 5 days, surveillance testing)
  - Oklahoma State (entire sorority in quarantine with 23 positive tests)
- Fully Pivot
  - MSU, UNC/NC State, U So. Cal., Hopkins, Drexel,...
- Delay
  - Maryland (9/14), Pitt (9/14), UVA (9/8), Brown (10/5), ...



# Changes to Colleges' Fall Plans Map



<https://public.tableau.com/profile/benjamin.renton#!/vizhome/ChangestoCollegesFallPlans/ChangestoCollegesFallPlans>

# Why Delay?

- Review data against criteria for determining what adjustments, if any, are necessary to move forward
  - Case demographics (weekly, college-aged, overall, by county)
  - Review of changing federal and state guidelines, and our capacity to respond to those guidelines
  - Other campus and community responses



# Implementation Overview

- Flexibility across the system, and over time
  - Crookston and Morris
  - Duluth, Rochester and Twin Cities
- Residential Housing
- Dining and Transportation
- Course Modalities
- Student Life
- Testing
- Financial Implications
- Next Steps





## Crookston

- Arrival began August 17; classes begin August 25
- Residence halls open (about  $\frac{2}{3}$  full)  
9:00PM curfew effective until September 8, re-evaluate

## Morris

- Arrival began August 14; classes began August 19
- Residence halls open (about  $\frac{2}{3}$  full)





# Residential Housing

- Move in for residential housing postponed for at least 2 weeks (exceptions)
  - residential housing is their safest place
  - some international students
  - extenuating circumstances considered on a case-by-case basis
  - TC Apartments (move-in has begun)
- Pro-rated credits
- Off-campus asked to limit presence on campus to academic and personal health

# Dining & Transportation

- Student dining contracts postponed for at least two weeks (limited dining available earlier)
- As with housing, pro-rated
- UMTC bus routes on summer schedule





# Course Modalities

- Vast majority of courses distanced for the first two weeks  
UMTC and UMR: September 8 → September 20  
UMD: August 31 → September 11
- Very limited coursework requiring in-person instruction  
If approved today, courses identified this week and students notified August 24
- Graduate and professional courses remain as planned

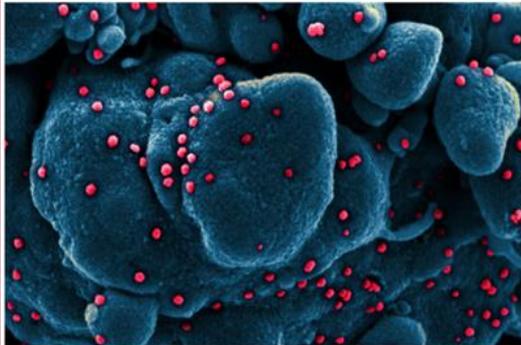
# Student Life

- Student Union business hours + virtual (UMR all virtual)
- Recreation Centers open 7 days a week (UMTC, UMD, UMR-YMCA)
- UMTC Boynton, UMD health service, UMR Olmsted
  - Over 500 in-person visits weekly and increasing
  - 1,000 telehealth visits weekly; majority are for mental health
  - COVID-19 testing, contact tracing (with MDH), and quarantine/isolation support
- Other student support units accessible virtually and in person

# “Smart” Testing



## COVID-19: The CIDRAP Viewpoint



## CIDRAP SARS-CoV-2 *smart* Testing



**Right Infrastructure**  
Factors such as institutional support and supply chain availability must be in place.



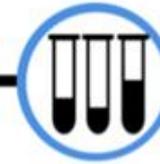
**Right Population**  
Testing must be targeted based on the goals of testing.



**Right Action**  
Based on test results, what actions are needed to minimize illness, deaths, and disease spread?



**Right Interpretation**  
The test sensitivity and specificity --and how well it performs at low versus higher levels of disease in the population--must be considered.



**Right Test**  
Different types of tests (e.g., molecular, antigen, antibody) are appropriate in different settings.

# Financial Implications

ESTIMATED Loss of Revenue (not net of any expense reductions)							
				TC	UMD	UMR	Total
Housing & Dining Per Week				\$1,750,000	\$700,000	\$55,000	\$2,505,000
Housing & Dining for Two Week Delay				\$3,500,000	\$1,400,000	\$110,000	\$5,010,000
Tuition - Each 1% reduction in total undergraduate enrollment (rounded to nearest \$100k) - loss for the entire year							
				\$4,900,000	\$1,000,000	\$100,000	\$6,000,000
Note - there is no way to determine if this will happen or at what level. Enrollment and registration statistics will be monitored from time of announcement to start of classes to determine impact.							

# Next Steps

Education as safe as anywhere

We will assess (locally and nationally):

- Behavior
- Transmission and incidence
- Federal and state guidelines, and our ability to respond to those guidelines

Assess through September 7, and communicate our recommendation to the Board of Regents





UNIVERSITY  
OF MINNESOTA

**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**