

UF PARENT & FAMILY TOWN HALL

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Sara Tanner: Good afternoon and welcome to this town hall, our goal today is to provide updates on your response to cover 19 and help answer your questions.

Sara Tanner: I'm Sara Tanner, Director of Marketing and Strategic Communications for UF Student Affairs and I'll be your moderator.

Sara Tanner: Our guests today are Dr. D'Andra Mull Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Mike Lauzardo, UF Health Screen, Test and Protect Director, Jerne Shapiro, UF Health Epidemiologist, Dr. Heather White Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students and Tina Horvath Senior Director for Housing and Residence life.

Sara Tanner: Before we begin at a few housekeeping items. Today's session is being recorded and a link will be posted on the same website you use to access this webinar. It will take a few hours for us to post that link, but we will make sure that we send that out once it is posted. We've already gathered many of your questions submitted from our parents and families form. So thank you so much for taking the time to do that. And you can also ask additional questions in the Q & A section at the bottom of your screen. Our panelists will try to address common themes. First, and we have other staff monitoring questions to help answer with a text reply.

Sara Tanner: Now, Dr D'Andra Mull will start us off with a few words followed what followed by Dr. Lauzardo and Jerne Shapiro and then we'll take some questions.

D'Andra Mull: Thank you, Sara. So just wanted to say on behalf of the University of Florida. Thank you for joining us here today. We know there are many questions as we transition back to campus, we're completing week two.

D'Andra Mull: And with your students we're learning a lot along the way and pivoting appropriately, and we really are looking forward to the opportunity to answer your questions and get you more information as we move forward. I will now hand it over to Dr Lauzardo.

D'Andra Mull: you're muted.

1:47 | Overview and Current Situation

Michael Lauzardo: Figure after doing so many of these I would learn that by now. Um, well, good afternoon everyone and D'Andra thank you so much for the introduction, Sara. Thanks for the opportunity to come and speak to the speak to the parents. I'm going to just go ahead and kind of do a broad overview, real quickly about coven kind of what the situation is. Now, what we expect to be coming. And then really kind of going specifically into what us is doing and what we're doing.

Michael Lauzardo: . As we listened to what you're telling us and listening to what the students are telling us and just kind of making sure that we have the right services approach and really explain what we're doing and why.

Michael Lauzardo: But let me just go, if I may begin by stating the obvious. These are difficult and really challenging times. And again, I think it's challenging for a lot of different reasons. But largely because there's so many unknowns. I think that's unsettling to a lot of us.

Michael Lauzardo: We hear a lot of different things. We're dealing with the pandemic, but there's a lot of what I refer to as the info damage. There's a lot of really bad information out there and misinformation that throws us off all this stuff adds to our anxieties. On top of that, if we ourselves don't have some of the risk factors that lead to worse outcomes are with people that have coven or make people sicker. Make them go to the hospital certainly people that we love and care about dearly have those risk factors and also as a parent of a college student and have a high school student as well. Our kids are most precious resource. Right. And so this is something that we're really concerned about.

Michael Lauzardo: And sometimes that bias that we have towards our kids. Sometimes makes it hard to us to sometimes filter out the information and this all causes stress, I think, on top of that, that adds some of the stress. It is the again the unknowns that even in science and medicine. We don't know. So only just be very clear and kind of transparent. There are things that make us uncomfortable as well.

Michael Lauzardo: So, for example, we talked about a vaccine, but I don't really, can't really give you a date of when one is going to be available or how effective that vaccine is going to be. And we also talk about the different things about how we respond. I can't tell you exactly why some people, especially the young will have virtually no symptoms at all and have this and pass through it very easily. Whereas, other people can get really, really ill, especially people who are older have certain risk factors. And then also, on top of that, if there was a kind of if there was a treatment of medicine. And we said, aha, let me just get this medicine. That's the anti coven medicine and all will be well. I don't have that I can't tell you that. And that makes us uncomfortable as physicians and as public health providers.

Michael Lauzardo: But let me tell you why I'm optimistic and yes I said optimistic and yes I said optimistic in the face of probably what's one of the more challenging times during the entire code experience. It's because I think that there are a lot of things that we do know, and that we're learning every day. And I've never witnessed anything like this in my career. The speed with which we are learning, both here locally and that we're learning also nationally and internationally as we have an unprecedented effort to really begin to crack those very important questions and really crack the nut, so to speak, and really try to understand that a lot better.

Michael Lauzardo: So let's go back to those unknowns. I talked about. I mentioned about there not being a vaccine release date that we know when it's going to work out how good, it's going to be but right now, there are 29 different candidates going into what's called Phase three clinical trials. That's the later part of the experiments and tests and things that are done to really understand if a vaccine is going to work. The success rate when vaccines get there somewhere between about eight to 12% but we've got 29 different candidates already at that stage. Meaning that we're going to have likely to have multiple different vaccines probably sometime in the early spring that we know are going to be effective and probably be effective enough. We also know the studies that have been done looking at responses and animals, particularly in in primates. Has been very effective as well. So we're optimistic, even in the early studies in humans that it's really going to generate a good immune response. So again, I'm very optimistic on that front.

Michael Lauzardo: In terms of the immune response. Yes, there are some things that we don't know, but we do know that we do develop a strong immunity to tooth comb coronavirus. And that coronavirus immunity, even though we don't know exactly how long it lasts the overwhelming majority of people respond well to this and recover quickly and safely. Again, it's still a very dangerous infection and certain people with risk group and that fall into certain risk groups, but we know more and more each day where those risk groups are and we learn more and more about those who might be at risk. And then lastly, about the medications. We don't have that magic bullet. No, we don't. But we're learning more and more, and there I don't know how many trials, I want to say there's over 100 different clinical trials that are out there. Many of them being done here at UF health that'll help us forge our way forward.

Michael Lauzardo: And also with all these things we know more and more that these cloth things that we refer to as masks. Those things actually play a significant role in stopping the spread of the infection. And we've understand now, not just from experience, but there are now more and more studies that show that that is valuable, and that we're not powerless or totally helpless in the face of this virus.

Michael Lauzardo: Again, still a lot of unknowns and these are challenging times right now entering September, which for a variety of reasons. We've known this was going to be a difficult time, not just because the students are back in school, not just because

Michael Lauzardo: A lot of other things are happening, but just kind of looking at some of the mathematical models from past experience, particularly the influenza epidemic. That's probably the closest match. Do we have what's going on now, at that time, September and into early October with some of the most difficult time as well.

Michael Lauzardo: So despite all these things. We have a lot of tools and every day we get new tools new information and we move forward and be able to kind of move were able to make a difference. And we know that now just in our own experience. When we look at those who do get sick and end up in the hospital. The time that they spend in the hospital is less they're getting out sooner. We're releasing people a lot more people a lot faster.

Michael Lauzardo: Than the mortality rate or the number of people that die when they go in the hospital is far lower than, than it was even in April, it's less than half of what it was an April and now we're understanding better that the mortality rate. In other words, the number of people that die after having coven infection is high.

Michael Lauzardo: But it's still about three out of 1000 that get the infection and usually almost all those people have one of the risk factors are identified as being at high risk. Again, this is not something you want to get. It's something that we want to avoid. I don't want to minimize the risk, but every day that goes by, we take one more fan out of this monsters mouth. And kind of start to control where it's going and understand it better.

Michael Lauzardo: But that said, there's still a lot of challenges and I'm I kind of regret kind of how we were we, where we are now in the sense that early on we kind of phrase the We gave people a false choice we phrased it in the wrong terms we kind of gave it the idea that you're either open or you closed your for health or your for wealth. You're either for money or for people's well-being. And really, that was never the discussion at all. We never should have allowed it to get to that point. And unfortunately because of many of the divisions that we have in society that again. I won't get into, it's really kind of allowed us to kind of go down that path. And that's made it more difficult for us to communicate.

Michael Lauzardo: This is difficult. There are no easy answers and all of you make very difficult decisions and parents like me trying to struggle with. Do I send my kids to school. Do I send them back

to college. Do they just go online, do they go face to face? Do I go to work? What do I do about that my loved ones, my grandparents. do I go visit them?

Michael Lauzardo: All these are gut wrenching decisions that we never really had the opportunity to tell people that these are difficult things that during a pandemic are not easy to manage but an important thing. Throughout that part to achieve the goal that I think what all of you really want from us is that you want us to be competent and you want us to be compassionate. And that has been our goal. The whole time to be both of those things because we are you... Our kids go to school here families work here. We work here or other loved ones work here. So we are us just as you are us

Michael Lauzardo: And we take our jobs very, very seriously to make this the safest environment we possibly can. And it's difficult time. And I think to be truly compassionate and competent need to be humble and you know we've been humbled by this fire some humbled by this fires every day.

Michael Lauzardo: I really like doing these town halls and answering some of the emails that come through, because it keeps me grounded. Some of you have expressed your opinions very rather forcefully and I'm thankful for that. And I appreciate those of you who've done that because it's really made us think and wonder, what are we doing, and how do we do things right. And we've been doing that. And we've listened. So I'm going to tell you now. I won't go into all the details a screen test and protect hopefully we'll Answer. A lot of those as we go along. But know that screen test and protect is the program that we have developed.

Michael Lauzardo: It's basically a public health surveillance unit specifically designated for us, specifically designated to respond to coven there are literally dozens, if not hundreds of different interventions that we put in through that process.

Michael Lauzardo: But the main things that we do or increased testing our screen test and protect program is doing the contact tracing for which Jerne. My partner in crime here, and certainly my right hand. Why depend on so much. Her job has been to lead a team of over 30 disease investigators that do the contact tracing isolating and quarantine people as necessary. And we'll talk a lot more about that. And then also the ongoing surveillance that we're doing to really understand what's going on on campus. But really, that humility comes from the fact that we don't always get it right. We don't have all the right answers. And so we recognize that and listen and pivot and really respond to what you bring up and then also with the science and the evidence shows us and find the right balance. Those are that the difficult decisions that that we do.

Michael Lauzardo: We work align, as I like to say is that we don't sleep in the hopes that you will be able to sleep, knowing that we're doing everything we can to keep your loved ones cared for and for our beloved University. We want to keep things as safe as possible here in the face of everything that's going on.

Michael Lauzardo: So enough for the 10,000 foot view. Let's drill down a little bit.

Michael Lauzardo: Just so you'll hear here in a little bit. I'll address some of these questions specifically. But what we've done is we've really amped up testing. We had a lot of testing capacity that was out there. But how students were to access that didn't become very clear. After the students started, and after a few cases were identified on campus. We've been managing cases all throughout the summer and we've had literally hundreds of cases that we've managed throughout the summer and successfully got all those people back to campus and when students come back to campus. We've been primed and ready and been doing this for several months. But when the students had cases up the demand for testing skyrocketed. And, to be quite honest, we weren't ready for that increase in demand and we thought we had communicated. Well, how to get tested. When you needed to, but it was clear that we had not we own that.

Michael Lauzardo: And in light of that, what we've done is we've made it a lot easier. So we've made testing available for those who have symptoms and made it a lot easier for people to schedule a test online at one.ufl.edu. Simple questionnaire to fill out and they can schedule their testing also for those who are contacts. We're doing targeted testing and people can get tested there as well.

Michael Lauzardo: Even if folks don't have symptoms if their contacts we want them to get tested as well and to have that opportunity.

Michael Lauzardo: We've really opened up testing a lot, not just because you told us we were listening, but also because it's the right thing to do from a public health standpoint. And so we've been pivoting to be able to respond to your needs and the things that you've brought up.

Michael Lauzardo: There are also some things that that Dr Mull and Dr. White will address as well. But we've also heard in terms of how we can respond to helping with the isolation and quarantine process.

Michael Lauzardo: For pivoting we're listening to what you say, and we're trying to move this forward.

Michael Lauzardo: But also bear in mind not making any excuses. But the reality is, is that we're building this airplane while we're flying it like all of us are in the pandemic. Nobody's truly prepared for

something like this. And we've done everything we can, over the last, you know, six months, especially since the time since May when we really began our return back to campus initiative.

Michael Lauzardo: So again, we're going to continue to work as hard as we can. We're going to continue to listen to you. We're going to continue to do these town halls. And answer your questions and apply the best possible science as we move forward to address the pandemic to keep us as safe as possible and to communicate honestly and transparently with what we're doing. It's just, again, this isn't easy, but again we're questioning everything that we're doing, we're going back to the evidence and listening to what you have to say.

Michael Lauzardo: You matter, your kids matter, and what we're doing matters. And so we want to continue to do that and listen to you as we move forward.

Michael Lauzardo: So with that, I'll go ahead and pause and then turn it over to you, Sara. If you want to move to the questions right and if you want to go to journey or to Dr. Mull, but I'll pause there and start answering the questions if that works for you.

Sara Tanner: Jerne. Do you want to say a few words? You want to just jump right in?

14:08 | UF Screen, Test, & Protect Program Overview

Jerne Shapiro: Thank you so much. Sara I'm, I'm happy I have a small presentation here that I can go through that I think will help. Answer probably some of your questions about the disease investigative process withholding from campus returning to campus and isolation and quarantine. So if I could have the availability, please, to share my screen. That would be great.

Sara Tanner: You should have that availability.

Jerne Shapiro: Alright, so my name is Jerne Shapiro, I'm, I'm the lead epidemiologist here for screen test and protect and I

Jerne Shapiro: Work. My background is an outbreak investigation for at the state and county level here for the Florida Department of Health and I love infectious diseases. So when the pandemic happened. Terrible as it is. I'm the kind of people that really get excited about stuff like this because this is where my heart lays and I really do believe in the power of public health and how we can really help them support our communities on when things happen. So this is a just going to go through the process with everyone.

Jerne Shapiro: I'm going to start off with telling you a little bit of goals that we have for screen test and protect and as I like to call it, it's slow in the role and this is slowing the spread of. So this is reducing the number of cases that occur every day so that our hospital infrastructure and our health care systems do not become overwhelmed. I want everybody who needs access to doctors appointment is able to attain one and everyone who needs a bed and a hospital is able to get one, and that is not just our Gator community, but the community with which we reside in I think it's very important that we support everybody.

Jerne Shapiro: And then we also want to protect the most vulnerable members of our community. So these are elders are immunocompromised individuals people with cardiovascular disease and diabetes. And while the majority of our student population does not fall into this high risk group for the more severe outcomes. Some folks do and it's our job to try to protect those people as well as our faculty and staff that are here on campus. We tend to be the ones who are more at risk for these more severe outcomes.

Jerne Shapiro: So the Florida Department of Health and the latch will county have partnered up for screen test and protect, and I think this is a really telling aspect of our relationship.

Jerne Shapiro: With the university with the Florida Department of Health myself Dr Lauzardo and the 30 wonderful, amazing disease investigators that I have working with me are actually all Florida Department of Health employees. And what this allows is it allows us to be able to have the not only the access to who tested positive for code, but the legal authority to investigate those cases as well as to quarantine and isolate individuals. So we have that UFO affiliation, as well as the Florida Department of Health and this is a really unique relationship that we have and it's allowed us to be highly effective in our content, excuse me, in our contact tracing efforts here.

Jerne Shapiro: So screen and test, I'm going to break down each one of the components of our program, the screening when all of the students and employees returned to campus. They all got a symptom screening survey and this asked if they had any symptoms before they arrived back here if they chose to they could also receive a coven test as well and some students opted in, and some students chose not to.

Jerne Shapiro: And as Dr Lazaro mentioned, we now have expanding the testing capabilities for anyone who wants to test is now able to get a test through one.uf. So this is us in its affiliates. We are 123000 strong. So we are a small city. When you look at all of us that way.

Jerne Shapiro: Next to protect. So we are protecting individuals once they come back positive. My group here at screen test and protects reach out to these individuals, they are to be disease investigators with the Gators in all caps, if you will. And we try to reach out to everybody. As soon as we possibly can. We provide public health, education and ask these individuals to isolate if they're in the dorm or group Greek housing. The institution is notified that individual is notified and we try to move them out so that they are not being able to infect other people

Jerne Shapiro: And trace, the state of Florida allows us, as I mentioned before, to do the contact tracing. So this is somebody who is infectious to others and during our investigation we try to figure out who they were around and who they were, with and once we identify those people is that our contacts we reach out to each one of those individuals and put them in quarantine for the next 14 days. So if they do become ill. They're not going to be around others and continue to spread the virus.

Jerne Shapiro: Well, I'll go ahead and tell you the definition of a contact right now as well. It's somebody who is within six feet for longer than 15 accumulative minutes. So that's really important. It used to be when this pandemic started...you know, I was at the grocery store and anyone that came and reached into my what I considered my personal bubble and tried to reach cross and get the tomato sauce. You know, I was like, hey, hey, you need to back up your in my space here. But now I know that those inner small interactions don't really spread the virus. And as we've learned more we've really realized what constitutes and exposure and what doesn't. So closer than six feet for longer than 15 minutes when the person is infectious.

Jerne Shapiro: And last we want to prevent. This is demonstrating and continuing to show our best practices. This is washing our hands frequently. This is showing other people that you care about their health by wearing a mask and physically distancing trying to stay greater than six feet apart from others whenever we can and then seeking medical care when you need it.

Jerne Shapiro: So now... disease. And let me now I want to just take a second and tell you a little bit about a disease investigation. I like to think of it. This is when we have someone who's a case in my disease investigators call somebody up from screen test and protect. They're going to talk about with that individual the past, the present, and the future. So the past, we're looking at exposure veil of variables. So, this is this is trying to assess what the person has done in the previous 14 days before they began to feel ill and we're going to try to see, are there certain places where disease is being transmitted more frequently than others. Is it house parties, is it bars. Is it on perhaps in a particular dorm or sorority and identify those areas so that we can take action on them. We also talk about the present when we do an investigation with someone.

Jerne Shapiro: So this is where we conduct public health education. Talk to them about what it means to isolate in quarantine that you don't go and see other people. During this time, how to wash your hands, how to protect the people that are the most meaningful to you in your life.

Jerne Shapiro: And then we talk about the future. And then the future is where the contact tracing trying to gather those individuals who might be at risk for contracting the virus and putting them in quarantine so that they're not able if they do become sick, they're not able to spread it to others.

Jerne Shapiro: Just going to tell you real quick how we release from isolation in quarantine isolation is a term we use for a case when somebody is sick and infected with a virus quarantine is a term that we use. One, when somebody is exposed to the virus in might develop symptoms and those are kind of we're waiting to watch and see what happens with those individuals. So for isolation. It's a minute. We use a time based method which comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. So it's a minimum of 10 days from when someone first starts to feel bad. And then this change just as today. I apologize. I didn't get to update my slide, but it's not having a fever. Now for one day opposed to three days and improvement of their symptoms. There's some different nuances there. If it's a student, for example, that might be doing clinical rotations or research rotations, where they're having patient interactions with individuals, we have a slightly different release back to campus for those people and then quarantining this virus can be a short once you're exposed to it as short as two days before you get sick or as long as 14 days before you get sick.

Jerne Shapiro: So we need to watch people for 14 days to make sure that if they develop symptoms or not. And what we do here at screen test and protect is we actually send them a text message or an email every single day and ask them for their symptoms to see if they've started to feel bad if they've started to feel bad with code like symptoms. That we help access them to testing and medical care if they need it. We do have some groups that are considered a central individuals that are still able to be on campus because functions of us would not be able to still exist and move forward on so we have different protocol for those individuals that are on campus.

Jerne Shapiro: Um, so what to do if you're an employee our student you test positive go home, stay home. If you're in the dorm go home, stay home call screen test and protect at 352-273-9790 and we will initiate isolation and contact tracing for that individual. And if you need medical care, please seek medical care at the Student Health Care Center.

Jerne Shapiro: So campus status is determined by an interview with our disease investigators were identified the cases in the contacts and then we click what I call the magic button which is where you're cleared or not cleared for campus.

Jerne Shapiro: And I just want to real quick show so that you know what your one US looks like here on the left hand side. This is somebody who's cleared for campus. Um, this means that they do not have code like symptoms are not a contact or not a case.

Jerne Shapiro: When somebody is not cleared for campus on their one.uf they will have this red X here and we'll see you might be asked when you're entering in a to a classroom setting. To show your status and you can pull this up on your phone or laptop to show your professor at that time.

Jerne Shapiro: And just some ideas moving forward. So we're making testing more easily available. We have different surveillance methods that are coming weekly symptom checks pop up testing sites around campus testing for anyone who's sick and the sentinel surveillance program that we're going to do and housing as well have some novel methods, including sewage epidemiology.

Jerne Shapiro: So that's all I have. And I'm happy to entertain any questions that anyone has.

Sara Tanner: I'm going to go ahead and ask you this up, sharing your screen. Thank You Jerne. Thank you so much. Thank you, Dr. Lauzardo we have quite a few questions.

Sara Tanner: So we're going to start getting into this and I'm going to kind of popcorn around based off of the questions that we've received.

26:10 | Quarantining Overview

Sara Tanner: Dr. Mull. I'd like to start with you. Can you talk to us a little bit about how quarantining students and are those students that are positive staying with the contacts, what does that look like on campus?

D'Andra Mull: So, again, as Jerne shared... quarantining refers to students who've been a contact. So those are not students who actually have an infection from Covid 19. Those are actually those have been in contact

D'Andra Mull: Quarantining students are expected to quarantine and one of the three locations. If they are in a fraternity house they are asked to go to a hotel that they're not choosing to go home if they're on campus. We have Quarantine spaces as well. And if they live off campus. They are expected to quarantine and they're off campus residences unless they also choose to go home. No, they are not assigned a roommate if they're living on campus locations, because we want to make sure that the

quarantine purposes they are housed alone. So I think that is the largest part of that Tina or Calvin. Is there anything you all would add to that answer?

Tina Horvath: Nope. You got it. That's, that's the basics right there for sure. We work with any student that's currently living on campus. We have a staff person contact them directly and work with them as within it as an individual to put them in an assigned place and work through that process to tell them what they need to have, what they need to bring with them and where they're going. And we have a staff member, who's there to meet them when they arrive to get their keys and move into the space.

27:35 | Rules of Quarantine

Sara Tanner: So I know quarantine means that you really need to isolate yourself from somebody else. What are the rules of quarantine, and how are we enforcing students in quarantine? So maybe they're not walking back around students that aren't contacts are positive.

D'Andra Mull: In alignment with Department of Health expectations and CDC guidelines all students are informed if they're in quarantine or an isolation that they have to remain in those spaces. For students. We also inform them that when they are in isolation spaces parenting that they cannot leave those spaces and if in fact as soon does leave they cannot return to the space for the health and safety of the Community. The same thing is told to students as their quarantining off site or at home at their residence and when they're checking into hotels. We have found out about a couple students who violate it

D'Andra Mull: For those who within it within the halls, they are not allowed to return to those isolation and quarantine spaces.

And for sorority and fraternity members who've done it off campus. We've also informed them have the same so again we are taking this very seriously. We know that with all systems. There are some certainly cracks and you have to make sure that we can address and quickly do so And put it on to make sure that that's done, but we are largely working very hard to make sure that we can help students understand their responsibility and also instill their sense of agency that is really up to all of them and us to make sure they keep themselves and other safe.

28:51 | Education, Engagement and Enforcement of UF Policies

Sara Tanner: Thank you. So speaking of enforcement. We talked a little bit about how we're reinforcing and monitoring people in quarantine. But how are we enforcing mass policies? maybe, Dr. Heather White, you can take that for us.

Heather White: Sure. We started months ago a behavioral expectations committee, really a task force. It was one of the, I think 11 around the university that were stood up and Dr Mull lead that lead that effort. And there were many, many individuals around the Division of Student Affairs, but also around the university who joined in this effort. To make sure that we outlined what those expectations were. And of course, wearing mask is. And as Dr. Lauzardo has mentioned is critical in that. So we started many community, our communication campaigns... So videos via social media to educate and so we've approached this and really a three kind of tiered fashion that's education, engagement and enforcement.

Heather White: And so our goal in this was really to thinking about this. Yes, the enforcement pieces there. But we wanted to start with educate, you know... why should you wear your mask yet for yourself but also for others in your community. We did a survey of students and our data is tell us that most of them did report that they do want to wear a mask. And also, most of them, and many of them told us that they want to wear a mask for themselves but also to protect their peers. And so that is something that we thought that was true of our gator nation anyway. And so it did not surprise us that we've been able to use this information. And that educational standpoint.

Heather White: We've also engaged our community in this our student government has started a challenge. And so we've worked, you know, to compete against associate FSU to sign a pledge to say I want to protect myself and I want to protect my community. And so we're competing with another institution on that right now to get again that engagement factor in with our entire community and against students, but not just students, faculty and staff because it takes all of us to make sure our community is safe.

Heather White: And then that third tier of this... of this approach is enforcement. And so that is absolutely where we've asked individuals when they wear their mask with to see when I see something to say something. And so one of the things that we have stood up in this process. We had a GatorSafe app anyway. And so we've created a COVID reporting mechanism through that. And so in that process anybody can report violation and mask violation is certainly one of those things and we have staff student affairs staff each day even throughout the weekend that are monitoring this app and taking this information very seriously. So it helps us to know what we need to educate more and where we need to have stand up more campaigns, but also how to address the issues from an enforcement

perspective as well. And some of that could involve the Student Conduct Office, as well as GatorWell, our Covid education area.

31:41 | GatorSafe App

Sara Tanner: Wonderful. So I think the GatorSafe App is great, you know, we're using it on campus campus can use it off campus a little bit... can you talk to me little bit about enforcement of say maybe off campus activities and things that people aren't necessarily physically distancing at?

Heather White: Yes... so this app anyone can use it when you download the app and you can use it to report. So that's on campus, but also off campus with issues, or things that may come up. And so we have seen that we have reported that information we have a really good town-gown relationship, the university does with the Gainesville community. Dr. Mull has lead an effort for us to meet with the city, pretty much weekly for the last several months. And in that our university police department or Gainesville police department have joined forces, really. And so, several nights a week they they go around some of the areas that are reported through this app so that they can see if there are parties, if there are mass gatherings, or things like that so that they can address that in ways that they need to whether that's citation or whatever that may be. So all that information is being funneled to the appropriate areas, whether that is law enforcement on campus, off campus, or whether that's the entities on campus, like the Conduct Office or with Gatorwell health promotions.

Sara Tanner: Awesome. Thank you.

33:01 | Residence Halls Cleaning Overview

Sara Tanner: So I'm seeing a lot of questions in the chat about residence halls and cleaning protocols. In thinking about what are we doing in residence halls, where we don't have anybody who is a contact or an isolation and quarantine and then maybe also what are we also doing for quarantine isolation residence halls day to help keep them clean? Tina. Do you mind taking that

Tina Horvath: Yeah, happy to take it. I think it's first important to know we have 120 staff members who are on our building services cleaning team or who are hardworking and dedicated here to serve and and help students who are living in the residence hall. So daily those staff do a deep cleaning on each floor, they're assigned to buildings and floor so that your students have are seeing the same people over and over and get it get a connection with our staff and so they do a deep cleaning every day.

Tina Horvath: And what does that mean that means they they're in the showers. They clean the stalls. They clean the shower curtains. They're mopping the floors daily they're doing all of the surfaces in the bathroom cleaning the shower stalls and the toilet area.

Tina Horvath: In addition, we've noticed that we've needed when we started this last spring, and have continued a focus on a high touch surface areas. So daily. Those are, you know, our lounges our kitchens are stairwells our elevators, Are lobbies and they're spending extra time in those spaces to to make sure where we're getting those high touch surface areas as well.

Tina Horvath: That same protocol happens in our quarantine and isolation spaces. We know it's important as part of this to to stay up with a spaces and keep those spaces clean so the same staff that are cleaning in the residence halls in their area. We have the same we have staff assigned to our quarantine and isolation areas to make sure that that we are focusing on that high touch surface areas and keeping those those places well maintained for our students.

Sara Tanner: Awesome. Thank you.

34:55 | Testing

Sara Tanner: So I want to switch again and make sure that I'm sharing the wealth of wonderful questions here. Dr Lauzardo. Can you talk to us a little bit about access to testing? People are wondering how many times can their students get tested? How's the process that they should go about for getting testing?

Michael Lauzardo: So that's a good question. And when I touched on in my my opening remarks, so right now. We're not we removed any limits in terms of students getting tested. But again, it's just within reasons, right, so obviously getting tested every day. And there's no reason for that, but we're working now to make testing mandatory for certain higher risk group students, so that'll be rolling out here in the not too distant future. So stay tuned to hear more about that. But if a student wants to get tested, they will get tested their various different ways to do that.

Michael Lauzardo: If they're feeling ill and they need to see a physician or another provider, they're encouraged make an appointment and student health or if they have a private physician or another physician outside of student health to go see them.

Michael Lauzardo: If they have very mild symptoms or if they think that they were contact to a case, they can go to one.uf.edu and go ahead and fill out the questionnaire and then get directed to how they

can schedule a test. Those test results are back in 24 hours depending on volumes and what time of day, they get it could be a little bit later, depending what time the specimen gets to the lab we're testing on campus all five days a week from nine to actually three days a week from nine in the morning till 7pm. We're changing the hours are a little bit, so don't hold me to that. But we do nine to three at our Hull road site and then four to seven at what we're calling our neighborhood campus neighborhood pop up sites. So we're getting those testing that that testing done around campus as well.

Michael Lauzardo: And then so all those those opportunities will be there. So there'll be able to get those set. And I think that right now we're testing. Forget the exact numbers. I want to say, we'll be doing 150 day and then close to 1000 a day by mid week. And as our testing capability continues to increase. We'll be able to manage more of those. But right now, we've got a lot of testing capability that students are not taking us up on. So we've had a lot of communication in the last couple days instructing students how to go to that one.uf.edu site to go ahead and get their, their test ordered.

Sara Tanner: Wonderful. So students that they have symptoms or not to get tested. They just go online and fill out the survey and schedule a time to go to any of those neighborhood locations or the Hull road location.

Michael Lauzardo: Correct. And just and just from a, from a public health simply just to clarify to we want those students have symptoms peak to be primarily the ones are going to get tested right there. The higher priority. So we want them to get tested. If you're having symptoms stay home. Stay in your dorm let somebody know schedule a test, call us if you have any questions, but that's the group that we don't just want them to test to Oh, I'll get a test in three or four days. We're assuming that you're sick and we want you to either isolate if you're off off campus if you're on campus and residential facility. Schedule that test right away, and we'll get you get you taking care of. And then also for those who are contacts to cases we're going into those areas where we're identifying cases and doing broader testing available and those would be a lot of the asymptomatic. So we're we're doing. We've been doing this since before classes started and that's how we've been. Catching in preventing a lot of cases by doing them that way.

Michael Lauzardo: We don't encourage people who are have not been in contact to get tested very frequently. Certainly, the system we've opened it up so that you can do that. But there's little value to be to be doing that and I I personally can get access to any testing that I need. And I'm exposed to a lot of people because of my job and I'm careful, but I'm not getting tested every day, or that regularly. So I just want people to kind of have perspective, there's no little medical reason for people that don't have that exposure is to get tested. But again, we want to make it available for folks to be able to get to it.

38:47 | Transportation

Sara Tanner: Okay, so a student goes, they get tested. They test positive. If they're living on campus and they need to go to an isolation or quarantine space? How are they going to get there? Dr. Mull. Can you talk to this topic a little bit for me.

D'Andra Mull: Sure. And I do want to say we received many comments from parents and families and students alike, who were concerned about having to get to testing locations and into quarantine sites. Thank you very much. You all are right, that is a transportation option that we should have provided. I'm as of yesterday, we did started providing it. Again, those are one of the things that we did not catch early on when we were originally were getting students who were testing. They had transportation. We have adjusted course for those students who do not do not and so that is available on every day at 10am to 1pm and then six until 10pm in alignment with what we're getting from our friends over UF Health to make sure that we can transport students.

D'Andra Mull: If we need to expand those hours, we certainly will, but we do recognize that those are the hours will receive the needs for transport and again we will address accordingly if we have students that need transportation even outside of those hours.

Sara Tanner: Wonderful.

38:47 | Communication

Sara Tanner: So a student's informed that they are needing to not be on campus because they're positive contact, whatever those cases are. They're going to get some kind of communication, letting them know that. But then, when are they going to find out how they get the care piece of that. Whether that's meals that they need the transportation. I need eat, what does that look like Dr. White and can you talk us through some of them. meal options for students, eating to quarantine on campus.

Heather White: Sure. And when a student and needs to be isolated for quarantine or needs to be separated withheld from campus. As we're called it or not clear from campus... Jerne pushes her magic button that she referred to in her presentation and that triggers many things. For many of the folks on the screen with you today. And a lot of folks that are working with us to support these efforts.

Heather White: And so when that email is or when that button is pushed in Jerne's area that triggers within a few minutes. Students will receive an email from the Division of Student Affairs and that will say someone will be in touch with you very very soon. And this depends on the time of day it is. Because

if it's 10 o'clock at night, we will not try to move a student to another space at that time. If that's too difficult for a student to move when we understand that. And so we'll wait till first thing. The next morning, and do that. So that also depends on the time of day. And so we will guide the student

Heather White: Within four hours, another message, email will be sent to the students. And this will start outlining all the care that we have set up to support your students during this time. That will be an email to about food as Sara mentioned and ask questions, it will be a link to talk about transportation and that's actually in the first email and they can start ordering transportation, it will take them a few a few Or a few minutes, or maybe an hour or so to pack up 14 days worth of things that they may need. And so then they can schedule their transportation. They have a link to look at all the food options. And so if your students live on campus and they have a meal plan. They will be able to adhere to that meal plan and three meals a day with bottles of water and snacks will be delivered in a contact list fashion to the students in the quarantine or isolation spaces.

Heather White: If your student does not have a meal plan and lives on campus. They have an option to purchase a meal plan for two weeks for this 14 days of isolation period and that information is in the email as well. They also if they don't want to purchase that have access to the field and fork food pantry and they can fill out the order form. There are several options gluten free, Vegan, Vegetarian, and the list goes on and on. And they can pick the items they want and have two different deliveries that will last them for the 14 days. The same thing. And again, this will be delivered in a contact with fashion.

Heather White: The same thing if your student lives off campus and doesn't have a meal plan they will be able to order through this email from the field and fork pantry and we will deliver these items to them. In a contactless-fashion to their apartment or to wherever they're living and this has from what we have understood has been going very well and gives the students a lot of variety and options.

Heather White: So they also in this link Sara receive a lot of information about care and support services during this time because this time, you know, we use the word isolation and it can be very isolating right and so they receive an email to talk about the care services that are provided a Dean of Students Office if we need to help them when the instructor notifications and making sure that their faculty are aware of what's going on. We can help with that. It outlines services provided by the counseling and Wellness Center. They have individual and group support groups actually one a group that's been put together a dealing with Covid And how to navigate that. And all of this can be done via their, their phones or their computers, they have to go nowhere to access any of this. And the list goes on for all the services and the resources that they may need during this time.

Heather White: Jerne's team is all checking on them several times throughout the 14 days as well as they are receiving automated emails going over all these services and telling them how to get in touch with someone in the Division of Student Affairs that they need further help or support.

Sara Tanner: Okay, so it sounds like students need to be checking their email because they are certainly getting a lot of outreach and really vital information that can help them through that process. Yes.

44:21 | Academic Support

Sara Tanner: Can you talk to me a little bit about how we're helping them with academics if students can't go to class. What does that look like are they able to take online classes? What is that process?

Heather White: Sure And and what we did and knowing that some of our students would need to be separated, you know, in isolation or quarantine spaces and may not be able to come on on campus for classes. We have automated this so that when a student is when Jerne pushes that magic button and a student is not clear for Campus. This automate automatically updates in the in their class roster for their classes so their instructors their faculty has also been this has been communicated to them. So this will automatically update so that the faculty member is aware of what's going on that that student is not clear for campus.

Heather White: In addition to that, just as I said before, and the email that the student receives the Dean of Students Office can help and provide backup with instructor notifications as well. So if a student needs further support and help and communication with our faculty. We're happy to do that. The faculty and we've been talking about this for months on our campus have been talking about the con..., you know, continuing that culture of care that we have had on this campus for many, many years and making sure to extend as much support during this this time. And so that's been the conversation. I'm in conversations with a lot of deans and associate Dean's you know, talking about the changes the updates and how do we, you know, support our students during this time. So this has been on the the minds of our faculty and our campus for months. And that's what we've been planning for.

45:59 | Testing Availability on Weekends

Sara Tanner: Dr. Lauzardo. And I have a question for you in regards to testing kind of coming back to the topic of testing. As we expand testing out will testing be available on weekends.

Sara Tanner: Oh, you're on mute

Michael Lauzardo: I didn't. I got it. Alright, so, um, yeah. So yes, testing will be available on weekends, it will be. We're still kind of juggling what that exact schedule is going to be but we're going to coordinate with student health, but we will be doing targeting Beatty, and Broward halls over this weekend. And so students can schedule and be seen there as well. And then also will be developing a capacity to do walk ups as well. I don't think we'll have that in place for tomorrow, but will be doing that on Saturday.

Michael Lauzardo: I don't want to speak out of turn Student Health does offer testing when necessary on the weekends. And so again, I don't want to speak out of turn. I don't know what their call schedule will be moving forward. But our intention is for testing to be available seven days a week. With the expanded hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and then nine to three Monday and Friday. And then our pop-up tests in the evenings either Saturday or Sunday four to seven plus whatever student health can do to provide that. So we'll be able to be able to flex up quite a bit.

Michael Lauzardo: The other, the other thing that we're working on as well. I think it's a fair to share it here at this time, we're not quite there yet. Many people may have heard about saliva-based testing and avoiding the infamous nasal swab, which is a deterrent for a lot of people to get tested. Yeah, I see a lot of smiles going up there. So having had 40 of those myself. I understand. So I've had the medical students learn on me so I can definitely feel your pain. But the key there is that we're moving towards saliva. It's not quite validated not quite ready for primetime but we hope to have that in place sometime. By the end of the month. And that'll make testing a lot easier and a lot more flexible and then we can even do collections on the weekends and so it makes things a lot easier and allows us to open things up even more.

Sara Tanner: Thank you.

48:00 | Being Social while being Physically Distant

Sara Tanner: Dr. Mull. There's been a lot of questions about just kind of grappling with this new normal that we're in and how it can be really limited maybe in making connections, not any fun potentially and other ways that we were addressing that, or maybe even bringing students outside to have some harm reduction risk reduction in social social settings?

D'Andra Mull: Absolutely. Sara, and what I will say is I fully understand our students have been away from contact for about five to six months at this point is we think about when we sent them home in March to keep them safe and we tried to really protect the campus community. So we do understand as students are ready to get back to a more normal social experience. We're also coupling that with the

fact that with the pandemic, as it is. We also want them to be socially engaged, but more physically distance. We open up our recreational facilities, you'll find that we had a lot of students. We have literally lines outside of those. And we were able to do that in a manner that kept keeps them safe allows them to engage. I'm at least be in the space with other people. Lake Wahlberg is another very popular option for students where they can be outdoors. As long as they're not within contact, um, they're not wearing their masks. So they're allowed to do that. We also have a lot of outdoor recreation classes as well. You may write buying see they literally have them physically distance, but we have a lot of things, engaging in that space.

D'Andra Mull: And then our virtual spaces as well. Again, I understand. I know even myself. You don't realize how much you miss the idea of being able to move about more freely until it's something's taken from you right so we understand. And we're trying to continue to serve up resources and make sure we can stand up support system for students. If there are other things that you all think of that we could be doing on we're certainly exploring that we talked about drive in movies. So we're getting rights to be able to do that for students.

D'Andra Mull: We talked about more a like some resource Hans and various things across campus scavenger hunts.

As well. So again, we're looking at what we can do. We're using the virtual options to off set and support soon as there too. But if there are things that we can do in person and still keep them more physically distance. We're also looking at those options too.

Sara Tanner: Thank you. I know in this past week we had a concert that was virtual and accident show that was virtual we've had outdoor Yoga and fitness classes going on is weather permitting, it's been raining quite a little bit in Gainesville lately, but definitely try and do some things in those spaces.

50:28 | UF Covid-19 Data

Sara Tanner: Well, we are getting close to time I wanted to have Dr Lauzardo maybe have a couple wrap up words and talk to us, maybe a little bit about data and then have Dr Mull close us out.

Michael Lauzardo: Or so yes answering some of the questions that came through in the Q & A I'm definitely outnumbered on the questions there. So it's doing the best I could. While the speakers are going. Um, yeah, I think in terms of data. So right now I think there are a number of questions as to the number of cases that we have on campus. And bear in mind that our ability to count cases is probably different than most universities. I say that because of the unique relationship that we have with the Department of Health.

Michael Lauzardo: Many people want to compare one university with another. And that's a very natural thing to do, right.

Because you say, well, this one did that, what are you learning from them and kind of go back and forth. And we do that ourselves. We look at our peer institutions and others to see what they're doing to see if we can do something better.

Michael Lauzardo: But again, it's a little bit different for us because we are functioning like a public health unit itself. So we're not only doing our own testing. But if a student say tests in Anchorage, Alaska and they report a Gainesville address and they're based at the University of Florida live at, go to the University of Florida. They're putting Gainesville address. We're going to find that case and that case will identify and pop up in our system and then we'll call him wherever he is and say, Hey, where are you. And then we kind of work with them to try to get them settled in. So we're much more comprehensive in our ability to find cases. And again, amongst our numbers reflect what's going on in that 123,000 person database. So we match that with the Department of Health new case list every day and are able to find cases that way.

Michael Lauzardo: So since the time of the beginning of the screen test and protect program since the first week in May. We've had on campus. I forget the exact total. But I want to say that we've had eell over 1500 cases on campus. And we've returned those back successfully so that when we say UF affiliates. That includes employees in the hospital. People through the athletic program, students graduate students you have faculty, staff, and all other employees. So that's been throughout the pandemic through the two

Michael Lauzardo: The two waves. And I think actually even includes what happened in April. Before we had the screen test and protect program. So those numbers have been going up until up until this point. But I think what matters most to you is that how many cases have we have right now. And how many are we managing and we've had an uptick as we said when when the semester started. So right now, we've identified 438 cases with 478 contacts, those aren't all students. Those aren't all in the residence halls, the majority of those are not all in the residence halls, or Greek housing, but this is that comprehensive look across the whole us enterprise. So a lot of cases, we're having a lot of cases right now on campus. But those are the people that we have an isolation and in quarantine. And we're able to manage those.

Michael Lauzardo: Now remember that the majority of people who are in isolation and quarantine do so in their apartments and in their homes. For those that are in the residential halls and Greek housing. We want to get those out, because that's what we refer to as congregate housing and congregate facilities

so their transmission can be easier. And so we want to target those in terms of increased testing and moving people out of there as quickly as possible. So the residents of the isolation quarantine facilities we have on campus are designed to be able to absorb those and have those folks in. We've got 400 of those set aside plus 200 that are we're off campus. We've got the ability to flex those up more and we're in the process of seeing what our search plan is I mean the event that we need to be able to get more of those rooms available.

Michael Lauzardo: So we're a lot of. There are a lot of cases of Florida has some of the highest numbers of cases in the country overall, not the University of Florida. I'm talking about Florida as a state and so therefore it's not surprising that we have as many cases as we do. However, we're ready. And we've got the ability to handle these cases and will continue to monitor things closely.

Michael Lauzardo: I think this kind of jumps into another natural question that comes in there as well. Is that what is going to be a trigger to stop? To be able to do something and move off> Again That's a complex decision, but as journey mentioned in her presentation. The main thing that we look at is trying to protect the hospital so that he can function, but also what we're looking at is we're not looking at a number. And I know that's gosh That's a loaded thing with in light of all the things that kind of people are you and both sides of the political spectrum about what a number means what testing means but what I'm what we're most concerned about is where spread happening and is is a lockdown of a certain facility going to stop spread.

Michael Lauzardo: So right now, we're not seeing evidence of our normal University procedures and all the normal activities that we do as part of the university. Our research, our education, our clinical service. We're able to protect those and we're able to protect the dorms were able to keep up with what's going on there. But we're monitoring that closely and doing putting in a lot of steps in terms of mandatory testing and increased testing as we go long to be able to continue to isolate in quarantine those folks appropriately.

Michael Lauzardo: So there are a lot of things that go into a decision, our bit were able to manage the, the surgeon cases that we have now and I anticipate that those numbers are going to continue to go up for us as they are with other universities. Again, comparing apples and oranges are our chief we're comparing apples and oranges. When you look at universities. The peer institutions, a lot of people look at as the university North Carolina. They closed after they had 130 cases. Again, there are lots of things that go into that. I don't know the nuances of what their situation was. But we build capacity to be able to handle these and to keep people as safe as we possibly can in this environment.

Michael Lauzardo: We're trying to change behavior, kind of guide behavior direct things, and pivot as we need to, to kind of meet those needs and will continue to do that. And again remember Our kids our families, our loved ones go here, we're here. And so we're doing everything we can to keep it as safe for us as it is for them as well. So with that, again, thank you for your time and I'll turn it over to Dr Mull.

56:21 | Closing

D'Andra Mull: Yes. And again, thank you all for joining us here. We know that there are lots of questions. We know there will still be questions that emerge on beyond today, thank you for sharing that with us. Thank you for allowing us to be responsive to what we're hearing. And again, put it in real time. We really are working to make sure that as we pivot, we do not panic. We want to continue to support your students. We want to continue to make sure that we rely on the judgment and best information from UFhealth they've been amazing and helping us understand what's going on with the virus, how it's how it is moving about and how we, again, we send up resources to support your students and the campus community.

D'Andra Mull: Please let us know if there are more things I know that there are a lot of questions I was working to get some of those answers as well as we're going along. There are other questions that I'm sure Sara will share, we will continue to answer them as we move along. If there are things you're hearing please reach out to us directly. We understand there are a lot of emotions tied to it and we appreciate being able to correct course.

D'Andra Mull: And where we needed to but also address a lot of the misinformation that's out because there are some things that I've seen the chat that I know personally because I literally have gone to the grocery stores myself and bought groceries for students. So I know that we're sending out resources and we have lots of resources do that. So I know there are lots of things that again we want to make sure that we can help you to understand better what's actually going on on our end, from our perspective as well.

D'Andra Mull: Thank you again. I'm glad to be a part of the community. Glad to know we have such caring parents and families engaged and thank you for your time.

57:47 | Additional Questions and Contact Information

Sara Tanner: All right. Alright, well thank you so much to our panelists and our wonderful behind the scenes panelists who are helping to answer all the questions. We greatly appreciate all our parents and

family members for submitting the questions that you have. We had over 110 submitted before we even started the zoom meeting today and certainly more

Sara Tanner: I wanted to remind you all, we have a email address- ihaveagator@ufl.edu. You're welcome to also email that and we have staff that monitor that email and can be helping to route your questions appropriately as well.

Sara Tanner: As I mentioned before, this zoom was recorded, so we will be posting it it takes us a little bit of time to caption it so just hold on it's coming. But we will be sending out a link for that so that if you have friends that were able to attend, they can watch that as well. So thank you so much for your time and have a good weekend.