

**[Editor's headnote: the following is an edited replication of the chat from the FAS Senate's Covid Forum on 7/30/20. Extraneous commentary and comments that would be illegible outside the immediate context in real time have been removed, leaving only substantive contributions that either add content or provide resources, or substantive questions that were important to preserve on the record.**

**–Matthew Jacobson, Chair, FAS Senate]**

16:21:14 From nicholas christakis : at risk of self-promotion. but in case it is useful, here is a book: <https://www.amazon.com/Apollos-Arrow-Profound-Enduring-Coronavirus/dp/0316628212/>

16:21:39 From Virginia Pitzer : Nowcasting website: [covidestim.org](http://covidestim.org)

16:31:57 From Paul Forscher : High school age kids appear to be contagious. Won't they tend to infect each other, their parents and teachers leading to a rapid increase in case frequency this fall? There is a solution: high frequency testing and automated tracing. The latter can be done anonymously.

16:39:56 From Bill Rankin : The uptick, from what I understand, is about delayed test results coming in large batches. The rate of new infections seems fairly constant, day by day. Anyone else know otherwise, please chime in!

16:47:34 From Paul Forscher : Testing frequency needs to be high enough match actual infection frequency. Nicholas bluntness is very refreshing!

16:49:59 From Joseph Fischel : It seems unlikely undergrads at Yale (or anyone) will be fully compliant with the community compact re: socializing, distanced contact, etc. They might party. They might have sex. So the question is - is it worth thinking through/putting out a harm reduction protocol? Like you shouldn't have parties, but if you do ... You shouldn't have sex, but if you do ... <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-sex-guidance.pdf>

17:01:32 From Katie Trumpener : For those of us planning to avoid campus as much as possible, what will be the arrangement to pick up/return library books? This summer the building has been empty (although could someone please shut off some of the lights there!); presumably in fall, it will not be possible to retrieve books without needing to at least brush past a crush of students. I think this would also affect all older faculty, and those with preexisting conditions

17:03:03 From Paul Forscher : To Pericles: Pooled testing can dramatically increase capacity and efficacy. It works when case frequency is relatively low which is the case in CT now. Why not use pooled testing for all staff and students at Yale a weekly basis?

17:05:46 From Jennifer Klein : It seems concerning that we are bringing students into New Haven and CT from places where COVID is on the rise (Texas, California, Florida, etc.) to CT where it's stable. Are we posing greater harm to New Haven?

17:07:39 From Howard Bloch : How will student behavior outside of class be monitored, and what is the provision for enforcement of guidelines?

17:08:18 From Paul Forscher : How are recent COVID positive contacts identified? Can this be automated?

17:11:27 From Rohit De : Could you let us know what the requirement of in person classes for international students currently is, and if you had advice on how to ensure our courses remain accessible to them.

17:12:02 From Jennifer Klein : What happens if schools decide to close in October because contagion seems on the rise again?

17:12:05 From Meg Urry (she/her/hers) : We need some out-of-the-box emergency thinking for this urgent childcare need.

17:23:03 From Tamar Gendler : July 27, 2020

Dear chairs, DUSs, and DGSs,

To help you with your planning for the coming semester, we would like to give you enrollment projections based on a survey that asked students if in the fall they would be enrolling in residence, enrolling remotely, taking a leave of absence or, in the case of first-year students, deferring their matriculation. You are welcome to share this message with the faculty in your department.

We estimate that about 20% will be taking a leave of absence; 25% will enroll remotely; and 55% will study in residence from New Haven, living either on campus in college housing, or in nearby off-campus apartments (juniors and seniors only). With approximately 80% of the student body projected to be enrolled in the fall, we expect a breakdown of about 1,300 students in each of the first-year, junior, and senior classes, and around 1,100 students in the sophomore class. Keep in mind that first-year students and sophomores will alternate semesters of living on campus, with the first-year

17:23:46 From Alexey Fedorov : Given all these issues, and the whole situation in the country, would it be better to cancel all these plans and NOT bring the students to the campus in the Fall?

17:24:37 From Tamar Gendler : <https://registrar.yale.edu/compact>

17:26:16 From Paul Forscher : What is the actual plan if there is a RAPID outbreak in a college?

17:30:08 From Michael Fischer : I've heard little about what kinds of accommodations will be made to replace the loss of the wealth of extracurricular activities that are one of the big reasons for being on campus?

17:32:21 From Jennifer Klein : Perhaps I missed this, but will graduate students also be placed on a continuous testing regime?

17:33:08 From Tamar Gendler : @Jennifer: we sent a memo about testing today at

17:34:07 From Tamar Gendler : On July 29, the university sent details on viral testing protocols for members of the undergraduate, graduate, and professional school student populations who plan to be in residence during fall 2020. The message that went to undergraduates is available here

<http://image.message.yale.edu/lib/fe39157075640578721577/m/1/1f3a6b73-a6ee-4747-b3aa-697ed10065dd.pdf> and the message that was sent to graduate and professional school students is available here

<http://image.message.yale.edu/lib/fe39157075640578721577/m/1/4e0038e3-9f1e-4614-9494-dc44c6cc9fa4.pdf>

17:35:18 From Tamar Gendler : A bit more info about the tests is here:  
<https://news.yale.edu/2020/07/29/yale-updates-fall-covid-19-testing-protocols-students>