

From: _____
To: _____
Cc: _____
Subject: _____
Date: _____

Dear Colleagues:

Today marks the beginning of Face-to-Face instruction for ODU classes. I know many faculty are eager to get back in the classroom, feeling strongly that that is the most effective way to teach. Others may be nervous about coming back to the classroom. I believe we will find that students are similarly non-uniform in their opinions. Some students have moved back in to the dorms and are looking forward to being in the classroom. Other students do not want to return to in person classes but are registered for one or more F2F classes. Just as in the fall, we should bring masks with us to class in case a student has forgotten one. We should remind any student (or colleague) that we see inside to wear a mask covering both mouth and nose.

It is more important than ever that we are as flexible as possible with our students, many of whom are struggling to learn and stay focused on zoom. Others are facing difficult personal challenges such as work issues, financial problems, sick or at-risk people in their household, poor internet access, and medical problems. Some students will find themselves in a F2F class but will not feel safe coming to campus. If you are teaching a hybrid course, it is obvious that you can allow your F2F students to continue via zoom. If you are teaching a purely F2F course I hope you can find ways to accommodate students' needs on a case-by-case basis. There are some courses (some labs and field courses in particular) that simply must be F2F. Some of those returned to F2F instruction in the past week or two.

Please remind your students that there is tutoring help available through the Math Science Resource Center. We have seen that students who seek help early do better. An overview of the services, including a link to the Physics Learning Center, is available here: <https://www.odu.edu/sci/msrc>.

Finally, I want to remind you that we have our first **Brown Bag lunch (via zoom) on Tuesday Feb. 16**. This is an opportunity for you to bring your questions and concerns directly to me and to offer each other suggestions and solutions to problems. The link is: <https://odu.zoom.us/j/93348001748?pwd=MjVzTVZkZmw0RysyUmo0SHRCVGFqUT09>

I look forward to seeing you then.

Best Regards,
Gail

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