



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
Office of the President

5 August 2020

Dear Mr. Shapiro,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the State of Florida's United Faculty of Florida's (UFF) letter to Governor Ron DeSantis on the topic of campus instruction for the fall semester.

The University of South Florida takes seriously our responsibility to promote a safe environment for our community and is taking significant steps to help keep faculty members safe, including but not limited to giving those who identify in a high-risk category priority to teach courses online and providing sanitization supplies for instructional and research spaces. USF will follow established processes and work with employees who have health conditions or personal circumstances that may impact their ability to return to campus. We have provided detailed guidelines for faculty in our [Faculty Guidance and Advice for Fall 2020](#), which was updated on August 4.

Our commitment to evidence-based decision-making remains at the core of our phased return to campus. The analysis of today's COVID-19 data – including test positivity rates and numbers of daily cases in each of our campus counties – indicates positive trends supporting a gradual return to campus in a controlled and careful way. Because of the evolving nature of COVID-19, and our increasing analysis of the virus, the steps we take for a phased return may need to be adapted based on updated data.

We are invested in supporting USF faculty in their ability to teach and continue their research in a safe and healthy environment. Our enhanced safety precautions on campus include adjustments to our facilities, such as plexiglass shields and limits on room and elevator capacities. New outdoor spaces have been identified and will be furnished as places to work or study between classes. We have also installed thousands of signs with reminders that face coverings are required, that physical distancing needs to be maintained, and to practice good hygiene.

Thank you for your commitment to the health and well-being of our university community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SCC", written over a white background.

Steven C. Currall, Ph.D.
President and Professor