1. We have recently started a proactive COVID-19 testing program for students living on campus and for employees who will be on campus regularly. Can you provide details and logistics on the proactive testing program, why it is optional and not mandatory, and where Graduate Students can find out more information?

2. If we witness someone not wearing a mask properly, or not wearing a mask at all, who should we report that to or what should we do?

   C19resource@utdallas.edu and oemcp@utdallas.edu

3. We have a question about training and visual aids (such as posters) demonstrating the proper way to wear a mask and the correct types of masks to wear. Is this something we already have or could implement on campus? Additionally, can you review the mask policy for campus? Who has to wear masks, what areas require masks, etc.?

   Returning to Research Activities wiki page (Health & Safety guidelines) – Returning to Campus Research Activities

4. Someone has commented that there are some staff members wearing N95 or KN95 respirators instead of disposable masks or cloth face coverings, but these are not provided to students. Is the University providing N95 or KN95 respirators for use to protect against COVID-19 exposure?

5. With Texas now fully open, however less than 10% of people are vaccinated, the risk of people being careless with COVID-19 protocols is higher. Can you speak to protocols in place at UT Dallas?

   Spanish COVID-19 Self Report Form: https://veoci.com/veoci/p/form/avf7kpdsf2mc#tab=entryForm
   COVID-19 Voluntary Vaccination Reporting Form: https://veoci.com/veoci/p/form/kb42phdb6sct#tab=entryForm

6. We have a comment here that reflects concern about not receiving much communication from their department administration or leadership regarding UTD’s response to COVID-19. Do you have some suggestions or resources that our Graduate Students could utilize in finding out more information themselves?

   https://ic.utdallas.edu/ isso/covid19-faq/
   https://covid.utdallas.edu/

7. We have a comment that PI’s should have been required to pivot their research to focus on developing better COVID-19 testing, more effective cleaning options, and cutting edge treatment technology. Can you highlight some of the great work that our researchers have done in the fight against COVID-19?
8. We have a question about students who are coming to campus on a regular basis getting the vaccine. Will this be something that UTD provides or makes available for our RA's and TA's?

https://utswmed.org/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-registration/

9. Someone has suggested that it would be helpful to have standard cleaning procedures posted on each lab's door and hanging clear signage in shared spaces showing the requirements for using that space. Do we already have these items in place?

Disinfecting Labs webpage - https://research.utdallas.edu/researchers/safety/research-and-academic-safety/disinfecting-labs
Disinfecting Labs sign - Cleaning and Disinfection for Labs

10. The campus is made aware of the buildings where someone has tested positive for COVID-19, but researchers would like to know what floors the person was on so they could help trace more effectively.

11. One of our audience members is expressing that a lot of their colleagues just ignore the Daily Health Checks. Can you provide some information on the importance of these Daily Health Checks so our audience can reiterate that information to their friends and lab mates and why they are required to complete it even on days when they are not scheduled to be on campus?

12. If someone needs to change their response to their Daily Health Check for that day, such as, they thought they were not going to be on campus, but now they are going to need to go in, what should they do?

13. An audience member has suggested that it would be nice to see how many people have registered on their floor so they may pick a time slot that is a little less busy. Is this possible or do you have any suggestions on what researchers can do to find those less busy times?

14. One of our audience members has stated that beyond their plans for graduation, COVID-19 has uprooted their planned dissertation research. What is the Office of Graduate Education doing to assist students that are experiencing these issues?

15. One of our audience members has concerns about lab cleaning procedures when someone in the lab has COVID-19 symptoms, but does not yet know their test results. They are afraid of exposure if they are required to clean and disinfect the lab, what are the proper cleaning protocols in this scenario?

16. There is a concern that researchers are forced to eat at their desks and have to remove their masks to do so. They are suggesting that the tables in common areas be moved to allow for socially distanced seating or even adding more outdoor seating.

17. There seems to be some concern from our TA's and RA's about being uncomfortable with returning to campus and teaching in large classrooms or sitting in groups of cubicles in research buildings. What precautions or measures will be put into place to ensure our students will be kept as safe as possible in these scenarios?
Research Continuity Town Hall for Graduate Students
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

18. Some of our audience members are asking why temperature checks are not being done upon arrival to campus and why we are not contact tracing everyone as a precaution. Can you speak to those questions?

19. There is some concern about too many people being allowed in a lab at one time. What are the standard policies at this time, and if someone feels the policies are not being observed, what should they do?

For the most up-to-date info on Comets United: UTD Responds to COVID-19, visit: https://covid.utdallas.edu.

Thank you for attending our event today. If you have any more questions or concerns, please feel free to submit it to GSA via https://utd.link/askGSA or send an email to The Office of Graduate Education at gradeducation@utdallas.edu.