
Subject: COVID-19 UPDATE: Impact of Mecklenburg County Directive
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 5:56:06 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: President Lugo

Dear Queens Community,

In observance of Mecklenburg County's public [health directive](#) released late yesterday, Queens will conduct all courses virtually from January 19 through February 2.

The new guidance directs that all residents utilize full-virtual options for work, school, and other activities where in-person activity is not required, starting immediately and through February 2. In addition to classes, where possible, activities will be conducted virtually through February 2. Any exceptions for activities that must be conducted in person (such as nursing clinicals) will be communicated directly to students by faculty or staff. In light of this new guidance, we have moved our [alert level to three, orange](#).

Our process to reintroduce students to reduced-density residence halls is already underway, with almost 300 students on campus as of yesterday afternoon. We will continue this process with all safety measures in place including a pre-arrival shelter-in-place, daily symptom checking, and mandatory testing.

Our athletic teams will continue practice and competition under the rigorous testing requirements and safety standards mandated by the NCAA and South Atlantic Conference. We have also made the decision not to permit spectators at competition through February 2.

Also, in accordance with the county's guidance, we are suspending in-person campus visits through February 2, and asking employees who can conduct their work virtually to work from home. Please confirm your arrangement with your supervisor.

We know you will have more questions. We are offering a live webinar for students and families this Friday from 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. Please mark your calendar and join [us at this link](#). We will also offer a live chat for faculty and staff on Friday. The Outlook appointment and link will follow this message.

Based on the county's guidance, the university will support our region's effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Mecklenburg County. We believe that our plan, created in partnership with Novant Health, will mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on campus. We will continue to make progress on fully implementing the plan and are hopeful that this calming period will slow the local spread of COVID-19 in the Charlotte area and will allow us to resume hybrid learning and limited in-person activities as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
President Lugo