

## OPEN LETTER FOR ONLINE TEACHING UNTIL SAFETY THRESHOLDS FOR VACCINATION AND POSITIVITY RATES ARE ACHIEVED

Fueled by the [highly infectious Delta variant](#), daily new cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. have [risen to roughly 150,000](#). We are now seeing the [highest weekly average](#) of COVID-19 cases since early February. On August 24, NCDHHS reported [4,623 new COVID-19 cases, 3,342 currently hospitalised COVID-19 patients, and an average daily positivity rate of 14.7%](#). Watauga County, along with nearly all counties in North Carolina, is currently at the [highest level of community transmission](#) per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention metrics and is now in an officially declared [state of emergency](#). As of August 20, Watauga County's seven day test [positivity rate is at 7.53%](#).

According to the [App State COVID-19 Dashboard](#), as of August 23, 87% of faculty and staff are fully vaccinated, **but only 49% of students are fully vaccinated**. The student vaccination percentage stands in stark contrast to the [70% vaccination goal](#) that AppHealthCare is trying to attain. This is particularly alarming given the [great concern](#) expressed by Appalachian Regional Healthcare System officials regarding the current surge in infections, staffing shortages, and the need to open additional COVID units in the system.

The crisis posed by the Delta variant also has motivated a robust [UNC-Chapel Hill faculty petition](#) to move classes online.

We commend Chancellor Everts for committing ASU to remaining ["cautious and safety focused."](#) In light of this commitment and due to the following factors: 1) the dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases nationally, statewide, and locally; 2) the low student vaccination rate at ASU; and 3) full FDA approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, we, the undersigned faculty of ASU, call upon Chancellor Everts and Provost Norris to move all possible courses online immediately until both of the following criteria are met:

1. The percentage of fully vaccinated students reaches AppHealthCare's goal of 70% and
2. Watauga County achieves a low level of community transmission based on the CDC-recommended positivity rate of [less than 5%](#) within the county.

We must rise to meet this moment through courageous, compassionate, and moral decisions in the interest of the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff, and community.

**[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SIGN THE OPEN LETTER NOW!](#)**

(Your signature will appear below within a few hours.)

Signed by:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>
1	Emily Dakin	Social Work
2	Lynn Siefferman	Biology
3	Martha McCaughey	Sociology
4	Harry Clark Maddux	IDS
5	Michael Behrent	History
6	jeffrey bortz	history
7	Leigh Dunston	Finance Banking and Insurance
8	Gregory Reck	Professor Emeritus, Anthropology
9	Stella Anderson	Department of Management
10	Bruce Stewart	History
11	John W. Stephenson	Art
12	Nancy Sue Love	Government & Justice Studies
13	Andrew Polonsky	Computer Science
14	Gayle M. Turner	LES
15	Pete Soule	Geography and Planning
16	Colin Ramsey	English
17	Susan C. Staub	English
18	Elicka Sparks	Government and Justice Studies
19	Scott Relyea	History
20	Jill Ehnenn	English
21	Brian Burke	Sustainable Development
22	Tony Calamai	Physics & Astronomy

23	Katie Adams	English
24	Heather Waldroup	Art
25	Jennie Carlisle	Art
26	Renee Scherlen	Government & Justice Studies
27	Leah Hamilton	Social Work
28	Kelly Thames	Sociology
29	IMaureen. MacNamara	Social Work
30	Kevin Gamble	Sustainable Technology & The Built Environment
31	Kelly A. Williams	Social Work
32	Richard Gray	Physics and Astronomy
33	Kristin Harmon	Social Work
34	Amy C. Hudnall	Departments of History and Global Studies
35	Anne Fanatico	Sustainable Development
36	Heather Thorp	Social Work
37	Aniseh Bro	Sustainable Development
38	Mike Hambourger	Chemistry and Fermentation Sciences
39	Rebecca Witter	Sustainable Development
40	Tanga Mohr	Economics
41	Belinda Walzer	English
42	Michael Turner	History
43	John Craft	Art
44	Krissy Johnson	Biology
45	Leon Lewis	English

46	Michael Briley	Physics and Astronomy
47	April Flanders	Art
48	Randall Reed	Philosophy and Religion
49	Joseph Bathanti	Interdisciplinary Studies
50	Renee Gamble	History Department
51	Dick Greenwood	Physics and Astronomy
52	Anna Muenchrath	English
53	Rodney K. Duke	P&R
54	Edison Midgett	Art
55	Erin Bouldin	Public Health
56	Susan Lappan	Anthropology
57	Alice Wright	Anthropology
58	Katherine Abrams	English
59	Anna Cremaldi	Philosophy and Religion
60	Susan W. Mills	Hayes School of Music
61	Jeri Allison	Art
62	Thomas Pegelow Kaplan	Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies
63	Elaine O'Quinn	English
64	Jason Lynch	LES
65	Aaron Ballance	English
66	James Houser	STBE
67	Germán Campos-Muñoz	English
68	Catherine Altice	Art

69	Steven Beck	Biology
70	Daniel Cole	Art
71	Kyle Stevens	English
72	Christopher J. Holden	Psychology
73	Hannah Holmes	Psychology
74	Michael Grady	Art
75	Saloua Ben Zahra	LLC
76	Anneliese Thomae Elias	Department of Languages, Literatures and cultures
77	Nancy Wilson	Chemistry and Fermentation Sciences
78	Gabriella Friedman	Interdisciplinary Studies
79	Brian Whitaker	Management
80	Laurie Atkins	Theatre and Dance
81	Scott Marshall	Geological and Environmental Sciences
82	Lindsay Masland	Psychology
83	Martie Thompson	Public Health
84	Mark Coltrain	University Libraries
85	Carol Kline	Hospitality & Tourism Mgt/ Management
86	Robin Groce	Reading Education
87	Linda Gail York	English
88	Adam Hege	Public Health
89	Timothy B. Ford	Art
90	Doris Bazzini	Psychology

91	Amy Cheney	LES
92	Kristina Groover	English
93	Sarah Donovan	Social Work
94	Dennis Guignet	Economics
95	Dionne Sills Busio	Family and Child Studies
96	Phyllis Kloda	Art
97	John Paul Jameson	Psychology
98	Beth Buchholz	Reading Education and Special Education (RESE)
99	John Arrowood	Nutrition and Health Care Management
100	Mira Rai Waits	Art
101	Cary Fraser	Government and Justice Studies
102	Laura Chapman	Communication Sciences and Disorders
103	Richard Christiana	Public Health
104	Kevin Kennedy	LLC
105	Ken Muir	Sociology
106	Christopher Meade	English
107	Anthony Gene Carey	History
108	Cort Bouldin	Biology
109	Adam Newmark	Government and Justice Studies
110	Heather Taylor	Family and Child Studies
111	Sydeena Isaacs	Nutrition and Healthcare Management
112	Christina May	Government and Justice Studies

113	Twila Wingrove	Psychology
114	Anastacia Schulhoff	Sociology
115	Abhijit Ramalingam	Economics
116	Channing Lynn	Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment
117	Michael Dale	IDS/Watauga Residential College
118	Emily Auman	English
119	Jayjit Roy	Economics
120	Suzanna Brauer	Biology
121	Jeff Carter	Government and Justice Studies
122	Cara Fiore	Biology
123	Samuel Brown	Art
124	Laura England	Sustainable Development
125	Kim Hall	Philosophy and Religion
126	Verne Bacharach	Emeritus, Psychology
127	Susan Hedges	Reading Education and Special Education
128	Katherine Ledford	Interdisciplinary studies
129	Lorraine Harris	RC
130	Beth Davison	Interdisciplinary Studies
131	Ash Morgan	Economics
132	Imran Arif	Economics
133	Cuong Mai	P&R
134	Jonelle Husain	Sociology
135	René Harder Horst	Department of History

136	Barbara Zaitzow	Government and Justice Studies
137	Jessica Martell	Interdisciplinary Studies
138	Tonya Moore	Reading Education and Special Education
139	Başak Çandar	English
140	Tynecca Lynch	Social Work
141	Mary-Caitlyn Valentinsson	Anthropology
142	Victoria Cox	Languages, Literatures and Cultures
143	Henry Wansker	Government and Justice Studies
144	Marjon Ames	Interdisciplinary Studies
145	Paul Zimmerman	Healthcare Management
146	Bruce Dick	English
147	Maggie Flanigan	Art
148	Mary Ballard	Psychology
149	Alecia Jackson	LES
150	Laura Ammon	IDS/Watauga Residential College
151	Linda McCalister	Art
152	Matthew Robinson	Government and Justice Studies
153	Cameron Gokee	Anthropology
154	Fred J. Hay	Library/Appalachian Studies
155	Kathleen Schroeder	Geography and Planning
156	Allen Bryant	CI
157	Mary A. Valante	History
158	William Atkinson	English



159	Elizabeth Shay	Geography and Planning
160	Andrew Caldwell	Art
161	Michael Gangloff	Biology
162	Michele L. Rudisill	Nursing
163	Derinda Stiene	Accounting
164	Sarah Arrington	Biology
165	Alex O'Neill	Geography and Planning
166	Jennifer McGee	Curriculum and Instruction
167	Kevin Oley	Biology
168	Tracy Goodson-Espy	Curriculum & Instruction
169	Kirstin Morgan	Dept. of Government and Justice Studies
170	Sara Zimmerman	Curriculum and Instruction
171	Naomi Faw	Accounting
172	Greg McClure	Curriculum & Instruction
173	Jacqueline Hersh	Psychology
174	Jill Thomley	Mathematical Sciences
175	Carrie Morgan	Management
176	Joshua White	Art
177	Dan Caton	Physics and Astronomy
178	Tatyana Ruseva	Government and Justice Studies
179	Gregory Rhoads	Mathematical Sciences
180	Ashley Carpenter	LES
181	Patricia Johann	Computer Science

182	Linda Pacifici	Curriculum & Instruction
183	E C Conway	English
184	Mina Min	Curriculum and Instruction
185	Rebecca Hutchins	Accounting - COB
186	Lynn Searfoss	English
187	Phoebe Pollitt	Nursing/ retired
188	Sarah J. Greenwald	Mathematical Sciences
189	Jennifer Schroeder Tyson	Public Health
190	Louis Gallien	Honors College
191	Jim Deni	Psychology
192	Scotty Ellerbe	Chemistry
193	Abby Stickford	Health and Exercise Science
194	Theresa Redmond	Curriculum & Instruction
195	Paulette Marty	Theatre & Dance
196	Layne McDaniel	History
197	Rebecca Quin	Theatre and Dance
198	Samantha Deal	Univ College
199	Jonathon Stickford	Health and Exercise Science
200	Regina Gulick	Theatre and Dance
201	Jamie Yarbrough	Psychology
202	Kristin Grieneisen	Theatre & Dance
203	Kevin S. Warner	Department of Theatre and Dance
204	Marianne Adams	Theatre and Dance

205	Ray Miller	Theatre and Dance
206	Gordon Hensley	Theatre and Dance
207	Peter A. Groothuis	Economics
208	Jessica Wood	Anthropology
209	Nathan E. Harrington	Public Health
210	John Henson	Curriculum & Instruction
211	Jeffrey H Coats	University College
212	Alex Holcomb	Finance
213	Charles Smith	University College
214	Melissa Medaugh	Management
215	Doug Waring	Psychology
216	Ilgim Benoit	Marketing
217	Douglas James	Music
218	Lauren Stanton	Psychology
219	Skip Rackmill	University College
220	Kathryn Montalbano	Communication - Journalism
221	Jiangxue Han	Communication
222	Shanshan Lou	Communication
223	Laura Chu Stokes	Hayes School of Music
224	Hannah Finkelstein	University College
225	Joan Brook	RESE
226	Carolyn Edy	Communication
227	Dixie Farthing	General Education Program, First Year Seminar

228	Meredith Church Pipes	Global & Civic Engagement, Walker College of Business
229	Marjorie Church	General Education/First Year Seminar and RCE/LES
230	Jeanne Dubino	Global Studies/Interdisciplinary Studies
231	Daniel Platt	Social Work
232	David Koppenhaver	Reading Education and Special Education
233	Randolph Hawley Jr	English