

COALITION FOR ACADEMIC JUSTICE



Press Release

For: Immediate Release

Contacts: Sandra Soto, 520-954-5177 and Celeste González de Bustamante, 520-271-7402

Coalition for Academic Justice UA

Contact: cajua@protonmail.com

[Twitter @CAJUArizona](#)

[Facebook: CAJUArizona](#)

[Instagram: @cajuarizona](#)

[YouTube: Coalition for Academic Justice](#)

August 14, 2020

UA Graduate Students, Staff, and Faculty Hold a Campus Die-in

Tucson, Ariz., - A student-led motor march and die-in demonstration will be held near Old Main on Friday, August 14 at 8:00 AM to amplify the concerns of students, staff, and faculty regarding the University of Arizona administration's re-entry plan, with implications for its 60,000-person community. Concerned community members of Southern Arizona will also be in attendance.

August 14 marks the beginning of [early move-in dates](#) at the University of Arizona dormitories for students who participate in Global Orientation and ROTC. Move-in continues August 19-21, and UA classes are set to begin August 24. Students living in dormitories are allowed [2 guests per room](#)¹ despite [CDC guidelines](#) on personal preventative measures, which includes limiting the presence of visitors.

A [July 24 email](#) stated that "the University will conduct a COVID-19 test² of all campus housing residents when [they] get to campus, before [they] move into [their] dorm". Reports by resident assistants (RA) assert that they were not tested prior to move-in, yet they will be on the front lines of supporting the well-being of the students under their care, "[provid\[ing\] virtual support" to students](#) required to isolate.

The resources considered by administration for isolation spaces in the campus "[infirmary](#)" include [Wi-Fi, mental](#)

¹ Not all rooms are single occupancy.

² Antigen tests used by UA [lack reliability](#).

[health services](#) and food deliveries once a day. Re-entry Task Force Lead Dr. Richard Carmona [claimed](#), "We have the best practices ...to ensure that our students are treated well and safely and [so] they don't miss their educational experience even if they are in the infirmary." Seriously-ill students, however, will be forced to prioritize their basic needs over schoolwork. Moreover, while isolated students will have access to a UA Virtual Healthcare Provider, there are no details on the protocols in place for students whose condition deteriorates and requires medical intervention.

While university leadership claims that it has adequately addressed the needs of its instructors, students, and staff during re-entry, that does not reflect reality. There is a lack of clarity on practical procedures in case of an outbreak, alongside the push for re-entry to be driven by dates rather than data implies an indifference to the human costs of Fall re-entry, as the university prioritizes financial concerns instead.

The question now is not if, but when the campus will see an outbreak of COVID-19 that could very likely reverberate throughout the larger Tucson community.

CAJUA supports students and employees, particularly the most vulnerable, in seeking more comprehensive protections against COVID-19 community transmission. We are advocating for:

- Equitable work and study options, without risk to status, health insurance or pay;
- Transparency regarding COVID-19 case and transmission data within the university community;
- Re-entry plans being advanced only when all Pima County criteria are consistently met; and
- The release of a publicly-available re-exit plan and criteria for determining when a future campus shutdown is warranted.

###