



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CU Boulder needs to take responsibility for their failure on COVID-19 on campus**

*United Campus Workers Colorado is working to hold CU Boulder administration responsible*

In the latest email from CU Boulder's administration they say students are to blame for the spike in cases on and around campus. "If problematic behavior does not change," write Chancellor Phil DiStefano and Associate Vice Chancellor Dan Jones, "we will need to reconsider the campus status." Surely some students are acting irresponsibly, but CU knows how their students behave normally and how that behavior impacts spread of a virus during a pandemic. They still decided to put the Boulder community at risk by returning to on-campus classes. While some students have made predictably bad decisions, the fault lies squarely on the administration's shoulders. They chose this course of action against reason and at the peril of everyone in the community.

Nearly a month after move-in, CU Boulder has only made testing readily available for on-campus students, who make up less than a quarter of the undergraduate student body. Off-campus and graduate students, as well as faculty and staff, can only get testing on campus in specific, limited circumstances. CU Boulder is not testing on campus at all on weekends. On-campus students who need testing on weekends are referred to off-campus locations. Any positive tests performed off-campus are not reported in CU Boulder's numbers.

385, the number of positive PCR tests reported by CU Boulder as of Sept. 15, is a fraction of the positive COVID tests in CU Boulder's extended community. The spike in COVID cases in our local community has been caused by CU's bad decisions and negligence.

Many faculty, staff, and students are frustrated by CU Boulder's response to COVID-19 on campus. The administration has said many things that they have not backed up with actions. Gatherings are allowed to continue while faculty and staff are not given the tools they need to make their classes and departments safe. CU Boulder's administration needs to be held accountable for the impact their decisions are having – and will have in the near future – on our community. They say "Be Boulder" and then treat the Boulder community like they are irrelevant. We, the United Campus Workers Colorado (UCWC), are working to hold CU accountable. We've demanded that CU's administration provide hazard pay for essential workers, make free diagnostic testing available to everyone in CU's community, provide better data on the state of COVID on campus, and much more. Any faculty or non-classified staff – including furloughed and student employees, from all CU campuses – are welcome and invited to join UCWC. Help us fight for a better CU.

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