



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UCW Colorado Responds: CU Boulder to return to in-person learning Oct. 14

CU Boulder created the largest COVID spike in the state by starting fall semester in-person and moving thousands of first-year students into campus residence halls. Only by switching to remote learning and cooperating with [Boulder County's Public Health Order](#) were we able to slow the spread. Today, Chancellor Phil DiStefano announced that [CU Boulder will shift back to in-person/hybrid instruction](#).

CU Boulder's administration claims that a return to campus will be safe. This is the same thing the administration told students, faculty, staff, and parents when they announced that fall semester would start in person. Despite having months to plan for the fall semester, campus reopened without adequate surveillance or diagnostic testing, PPE, isolation space, medical resources, or transparent plans for the inevitable spikes. Our students, faculty, and staff, as well as the Boulder community, suffered for it.

Why should we believe that this reopening will be any different?

Our students are stressed. They don't know how their classes will be taught week to week. They don't know if they should go home or stay in Boulder. This cannot be good for their study habits or mental health. We owe it to our students to commit to a single teaching modality for the rest of this semester and do everything we can for them. There's only one plan we can genuinely commit to: staying online through the end of the semester and allowing anyone who can perform their job duties remotely to do so.

We recognize that some in-person classes can be done well and safely and hope to see those return in Spring 2021. But CU Boulder needs to spend time now preparing for Spring. They can do this, while giving our students the educational consistency they need, by establishing now that the rest of this semester will be online. At the very least, individual instructional faculty need to have the authority themselves to make the decision to teach how they think is best. Anyone required to work on campus should receive hazard pay for endangering themselves during a pandemic.

United Campus Workers Colorado – the new wall-to-wall union for all CU campuses – 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.

UCW Colorado is planning actions in the near future to respond to this decision. To learn more or get involved in those actions, please contact us at info@ucwcolorado.org.

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