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Colleges Ask Professors to Return to the Classroom. Their Answer? That's 'Reckless.'

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The Chronicle of Higher Education

When the University of Florida, in Gainesville, announced in July that fall-semester classes would be largely online, the daily new-case rate for Covid-19 was hovering between 60,000 and 70,000 nationwide. This week, daily new cases reached more than twice that number. Health experts warn that the country faces a prolonged surge.

But at Florida and other colleges, leaders have signaled to their professors that, come spring, they will be expected to ramp up their in-person instruction.

The reason?

An on-campus learning experience is critical to their students' success, these institutions say. That success, colleges know, is important for keeping enrollments up. And in some cases, the move appears to come down to politics and money. In his message to campus, Florida's president, W. Kent Fuchs, said that offering in-person courses was the "best shared opportunity" to protect the university's budget and employee jobs.

Read the full article

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