Listen to what the scientists and the doctors are saying.
ROY WILLIAMS
Carolina Housing’s quarantine plans

By Chiara Evans
Staff Writer

Editor’s Note: This story was originally published on July 17, 2020.

Carolina Housing plans to use Craige North and Parker residence halls to house students who need to be in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19.

Craige North will be for residential students who have been in contact with positive cases, but are unconfirmed for COVID-19. Residental students who test positive for COVID-19 will be isolated in Parker.

According to the CDC, isolation is the separation of people with a contagious disease from those who are not sick, whereas quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people exposed to the disease.

Ken Pittman, Campus Health executive director, said in a statement via UNC Media Relations that students who have been in close contact with a COVID-19-positive person will receive a quarantine timeframe based on when they were in contact with the infected person. He said students will receive timeframe frames on a case-by-case basis, but quarantine could last up to 14 days after exposure.

“A negative test would not necessarily end the student’s quarantine period because the result would only reflect status on the day the test was performed, and the incubation period is generally 2-14 days,” Pittman said.

“Students who test positive while in quarantine in Craige North will be expected to move to Parker,” Pittman said.

Pittman said students in Craige North will have a single bedroom and single-bathroom space configuration. Carolina Housing’s website says individuals who test positive for COVID-19 may be expected to share a room, and residents will share a restroom, as they would have in their original dorm hall.

“According to infectious disease and public health experts, those who have tested positive for COVID-19 do not require the same separation restrictions as those who have not tested positive because they already have the virus,” the website states.

Pittman said students in Parker are advised to stay in the residence hall and should only leave assigned spaces to access medical care.

Students in quarantine must wear masks and maintain physical distance to leave assigned spaces, and should not go outside unless they can guarantee interaction with others does not occur.

Students in isolation will receive daily medical monitors from a nurse, and he said, and students in quarantine will receive daily automated symptom monitoring communications, which trigger contact from a nurse if symptoms are reported.

Myron Cohen, director of the Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases, said in an email statement that maximal isolation would last 14 days after the onset of symptoms, but it could become shorter as knowledge progresses.

“Typically, however, if a student requires isolation space, it will be secured for students when they were in contact with the infected person,” the website states.

Currently, Craige North and Parker are going to be prioritized for students who need to live in off-campus locations will have the flexibility to isolate and/or quarantine in their existing living space.

“Campus Health will work with Carolina Housing, Dining Services and the Office of the Dean of Students if a student requires isolation space, academic accommodations and/or support services during a period of isolation,” Blattner said. “It is anticipated that most students living in off-campus locations will have the flexibility to isolate and/or quarantine in their existing living space. On-campus accommodations will be secured for students when other options are not available.”

He said students in the dorms will receive one meal delivery per day from Carolina Dining Service catering with breakfast, lunch and dinner. He said to ensure meals meet dining preferences or allergy restrictions, students will be asked some dietary information.

UNC Media Relations said via email students in the two residence halls will receive food with no charge, regardless of their meal plan status.

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Montalvo, a rising senior majoring in psychology and dramatic art, and part of the course.

Most of my classes which I could take for my majors or minors, given that I don’t have many credits left to do, are full,” said Pope, a public policy and interdisciplinary studies major. “And the waitlists are like 15 people and they’re all full, so I don’t think, unless capacity is increased, that it would be possible to get all remote courses.”

Pope said that when she emailed a professor of one of her in-person classes about attending remotely, the professor replied that they would likely be unable to provide a remote option for their course, due to technical limitations.

The professor also provided Pope with information they’d received regarding students with medical reasons who choose not to come to campus, stating that students who experience medical or other problems after the start of the semester could seek accommodation. The affected student would have to work with the instructor to complete the course.

Pope said that she worries this will place extra stress on students who may contract COVID-19. “They’re saying that students and professors will have to work together if someone gets sick, and then has to be remote,” she said. “Which I think would be quite a big burden on someone who is already sick.”

In an email to the DTH via UNC Media Relations, Tiffany Bailey, director of Accessibility Resources and Service, said students with ‘documented disabilities or medical conditions, which may...place them in high-risk categories’ should work with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Service to request COVID-19 accommodations.

“ARS is currently coordinating with the Office of the University Registrar to determine if a priority registration appointment can be implemented as an accommodation for ARS-connected students to address the impact of a disability or medical condition,” she said.

Bailey said that ARS will work with instructors to determine if an accommodation is reasonable and does not fundamentally alter the nature, structure and/or planned learning objectives of the course,” she said.

Some students are concerned about the behavior of their classmates influencing their risk of contracting COVID-19.

Rina Deka, a rising senior majoring in mathematics, is immunocompromised. She worries about whether the University can ensure that students abide by CDC guidelines, pointing to Greek life and undergraduate party culture.

“Having only remote classes worries some students, like sophomore Maya Tadross, a psychology major. Tadross said that she’s afraid that daily isolation will exacerbate her OCD, anxiety and depression. Additionally, Tadross expressed concern over the University’s ability to handle an outbreak.

‘There’s a lot of residential students exposed to the coronavirus, but without a confirmed diagnosis, in Craige North Residence Hall. Residential students with confirmed COVID-19 diagnoses will be housed in Parker Residence Hall. I’m not sure if the dorms can handle that amount of people,’ Tadross said.

All four students said they hope UNC will do more to ensure the safety and well-being of students. “They could be doing more for us, just because this isn’t a simple inconvenience,” Montalvo said. “I don’t go out for anything, except to pick up groceries, and now I’m put in a situation where I have to choose between my life and my education.”
Facilities workers voice concerns about fall

By Isabella Sherk and Chiara Evans
Staff Writers

Editor's Note: A version of this story was originally published on June 28, 2020.

As part of UNC’s plans for a return to campus in the fall, the University is establishing new health and safety guidelines, raising concerns about the increased demands on facilities workers and housekeeping staff who will be responsible for many of the new sanitation efforts.

A group of UNC housekeepers delivered a list of demands to UNC Housekeeping Director Herb Richmond at the Chick-Clarke Building on July 22, along with 300 petition signatures from campus workers and students. The demands include daily symptom screening for people on campus and restoring full administrative leave for all employees, including temporary workers.

Dante Strobino, an International Representative of UE local 150, the NC Public Service Workers Union, said in a press advisory that institutional policy failures will most significantly impact Black and brown workers, as the pandemic disproportionately impacts their health.

“Despite a planned return of students on August 10th, essential workers continue to report to work with inadequate protective equipment to ensure their safety,” Strobino wrote. “Some departments are providing employees with as few as 1-2 masks per week, and workers report limited access to face shields or gloves. These safety measures have already been proven inadequate after multiple workers have tested positive for COVID-19 in addition to local health officials discovering a coronavirus cluster within the university athletics department.”

The American Association of University Professors and UE Local 150 also held a town hall on July 18 to discuss safety concerns held by UNC System campus workers. This was followed by a “Day of Action,” during which campus workers marched on UNC’s campus to deliver the same set of demands to South Building.

“On the front lines”

Housekeeping crew leader James Holman said the housekeeping staff was “on the front lines” to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Stephanie Berrier, communications manager for Facilities Services, said members of the UNC community have been involved in planning for the fall, including Facilities Services.

“Facilities Services has been an active and consistent contributor to this planning process and is preparing input to support the development of a strong Roadmap for Fall 2020,” Berrier said via UNC Media Relations.

However, Holman, a member of the Employee Forum and Staff Assembly, said he was not in any meetings where University administration asked for input from facilities workers before the plan to return to campus was released.

“They told us what we’re going to do,” Holman said.

He said housekeeping staff was asked to sanitize high-traffic areas every four hours, including wiping down switches, handles and other surfaces.

According to Carolina Together, the University has created community standards that all students, faculty and staff should uphold, emphasizing mask-wearing, frequent hand-washing and maintaining physical distance, among other measures.

“We are prioritizing the health and safety of our campus community, including all of our employees, in all aspects of our plans for the fall 2020 academic semesters,” Reeci Menghini, vice chancellor for Human Resources and Equal Opportunity and Compliance, said via UNC Media Relations.

Media Relations said that prior to returning to campus, staff will be required to follow an online training course about protective equipment, mitigating COVID-19 transmission and how to eliminate hazards.

Protocol concerns

James Stamey is a part-time undergraduate student and a building and environmental services supervisor and zone manager. Stamey, who manages facilities workers and has helped implement COVID-19 protective policies, said most housekeeping staff returned June 1.

Mandatory facilities services employees have been working on campus since reduced operations began in March, Media Relations said.

Upon the phased on-campus return of students in August, Stamey said protocols of physical distancing and wearing personal protective equipment were put into place to protect facilities workers.

According to an FAQ on COVID-19 operations on UNC’s Facilities Services website, face masks will be provided to all staff, and gloves will be given to those in housekeeping services or who are in direct contact with faculty, staff or students. Equipment shared between staff will be disinfected before, during and after each shift.

“For them to do the cleaning the way they want it done in every building, it’s not possible,” Holman said.

“We don’t have enough staff to clean up after every class on campus,” Terry Rhodes, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, previously stated. The College plans for students and faculty to clean their own workspaces, and that sanitation materials will be available in each classroom.

Rhodes said that based on CDC guidelines, Facilities Services has updated cleaning tasks and frequency information for classrooms. Part of the standards for sanitizing these spaces involves housekeeping staff disinfecting “high-touch surfaces,” like restrooms and elevator buttons, four times every day and cleaning all classroom surfaces nightly.

Hiring and accommodations

The Office of Human Resources said in a FAQ that COVID-19 Mandatory Employees required to be at designated work sites received special compensation for work from April 1 to May 10.

Media Relations said via email that hiring has been limited due to the pandemic, but the University is seeking employees for temporary housekeeping positions.

Media Relations said relief funding from the COVID-19 Recovery Act and FEMA will support purchases of sanitation supplies and other expenses to meet increased sanitation needs.

According to Carolina Together, employees who self-identify as being at high risk for COVID-19 are encouraged to use the secure ADA accommodations process run by the University’s EOC Office.

“Accommodations could include options such as an altered work schedule, assignment to a remote work environment, or a changed office environment,” the website states.

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The Daily Tar Heel
Faculty petition against in-person teaching

By Sasha Schroeder
Staff Writer

Editor’s Note: This story has been updated since its original publication on June 8, 2020.

In June, 650 faculty, fellows and teaching assistants petitioned UNC’s administration to ensure no instructor will be required to teach in person during the fall due to COVID-19.

“It’s not that we don’t love teaching,” María DeGuzmán, professor of English and comparative literature and one of the petition’s writers, said. “We don’t want to participate in any kind of disregard for human life.”

The petition, which collected signatures through June 8, also called for the following:

• A guarantee that no instructor be required to disclose personal health concerns.
• That all members of the campus community be required to wear masks and practice social distancing in classrooms and public settings.
• That all staff, students and faculty be tested for COVID-19 during the first weeks of classes.
• A plan for regular and ongoing COVID-19 testing.

Michael Palm, associate professor in the communication department and president of the UNC chapter of the American Association of University Professors, helped write the petition. Palm said his colleagues do not “feel even remotely included” in the process to determine how instruction will be determined this fall.

“Maybe we should be a little more creative with alternatives,” DeGuzmán said. “There’s a power imbalance there, a pretty large endowment, “DeGuzmán said.

Faculty have called attention to the reopening of campus.

In his June statement to the DTH, Gellman said the petition was based on a letter that Duke University’s president of the UNC chapter of the American Association of University Professors, helped write the petition.

Palm said the petition was based on a letter that Duke University’s administration sent to its faculty.

UNC has stated on the Carolina Together website that the University will not be testing everyone before return to campus, because doing so could create a false sense of security.

Faculty have called attention to the University’s expected financial losses from the pandemic and how this may play a role in the decisions regarding the reopening of campus.

“We know that universities don’t want to touch their endowments, but we also know that UNC does have a pretty large endowment,” DeGuzmán said.

Associate history professor Erik Fortun said.

Fortun said.

“I don’t think that janitors and food servers on campus should have to come in and do a job that will put their lives very much at risk,” Fortun said.

Associate history professor Erik Gellman said.

Gellman expressed particular concern for staff who work on campus in other capacities.

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Nationally police brutality ignites Raleigh protests

By Suzanne Claire Perry and Maydha Dovruzian

In a tweet from Mayor Lovely Anderson’s account, the tweet read: "The Carolina Peace Center, helped to plan the #RaleighDemandsJustice protest includes Emancipate NC, Young Americans Protest and N.C. Town Hall. Participants, who were encouraged to bring water bottles, bricks, parked cars and rubber bullets at demonstrators."

"RALEIGH — Tensions between police and protesters escalated in downtown Raleigh on May 30 when thousands gathered to protest the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died while being arrested by Minneapolis police. After a peaceful protest that began around 3 p.m. and lasted for approximately two hours, tear gas and rubber bullets were fired at demonstrators. Multiple buildings were damaged and windows were broken, and some were looted. Activist Kerwin Pittman speaks to the crowd at the #RaleighDemandsJustice protest in Raleigh on Saturday, May 30, 2020.

"Participants, who were encouraged to bring water bottles, bricks, parked cars and rubber bullets at demonstrators."

"RALEIGH — Tensions between police and protesters escalat..."
Editor’s Note: A version of this story was originally published on July 2, 2020.

Many questions remain about the return to campus this fall — but Chapel Hill Transit’s current 10-passenger capacity limit has some students concerned they won’t be able to get to class all this semester.

In a July 23 email statement to The Daily Tar Heel, Brian Litchfield, Chapel Hill Transit Director, said: “No change in routes – we are planning on 12 routes with additional buses. We are staying with the 10 person limit for safety and have asked the health department to review this and see if it is safe and reasonable to move to a higher limit.”

According to an earlier email from Brian Litchfield, in addition to the 10-passenger limit, those riding the bus are required to wear masks and maintain distance from one another. Buses are also sanitized at least twice a day.

Litchfield said safety will continue to be a priority for the system, and cleaning, social distancing and mask requirements will likely continue well into the fall.

He said communication with UNC plays a critical role in Chapel Hill Transit’s fall decision-making.

“We're working very closely with the University on developing our plan, and are geared around the safety element,” he said. “This is something that people in their life in general are taking for granted, that we've not dealt with before.

In an email, Cheryl Stout, UNC’s director of Transportation and Parking, confirmed that Chapel Hill Transit and UNC officials are partnering to develop “service scenarios” to support UNC’s fall 2020 commute, and that planning, both for transit and parking, is "currently ongoing."

Kat Freydil, a rising senior, said via Facebook Messenger that they didn’t have enough notice to make plans to get a parking permit and were planning on riding public transit to get to class.

Freydil said for students who live far from campus or have to rely on public transit, especially for those with disabilities like themselves, this policy isn’t just an inconvenience; it’s immobilizing.

“To use myself as an example, if you looked at me I’d seem healthy, and not someone who necessarily needs to make the cut if more than 10 people are waiting, but in actually I’m someone who has mobility issues and occasionally needs a cane,” they said. “And there are tons of people who are even more reliant than I am, who I think could suffer from this policy.”

Freydil said the transit policy would also disproportionately affect those with disabilities who live on campus.

“Many on-campus students expressed our concerns via Twitter, including many who live on South Campus, where students commonly take bus routes to class.

In June, Carolina Dining Services reversed a decision barring students in Ram Village from purchasing on-campus meal plans. Some residents expressed concern that the rule would have disproportionately affected students of color, many of whom live in the Rams community.

Angelica Quintero, a rising senior, said: “I respect and am glad that UNC is making us come back to campus to have class, then an alternative needs to happen because a lot of students don’t have cars or can’t afford on-campus parking,” Quintero said. “I feel like it’s unfair to expect students to accommodate what’s happening given that, you know, we are in the middle of a pandemic.”

Stout wrote in her email that UNC Transportation and Parking will be providing "more on-campus student options" for semester and daily parking, and passes went on sale for students on July 6.

According to the Transportation and Parking website, on-campus parking regulations are not in effect until August 3, when the permit year begins.

Although accommodations for teleworking pricing, earlier weeknight parking and "increased on-campus parking options" are listed on the website, the number of parking options added was not specified on the website.

Tye Amen Hetep, a rising junior nutrition major, said with no car and a 2-mile commute to campus, public transit is her only way to class.

"How in the world am I going to get to campus to have class, then an alternative needs to happen because a lot of students don’t have cars or can’t afford on-campus parking," Quintero said. "I feel like it’s unfair to expect students to accommodate what’s happening given that, you know, we are in the middle of a pandemic."

Freydil said although they are happy to see Chapel Hill Transit prioritizing safety, the possible effects of these policies are alarming. Due to what they described as a "lack of clarity" on this and other University decisions, they aren’t sure if it’s safe to go back to campus, bus ride or not.

"I respect and am glad that Chapel Hill is considering the health of bus drivers and riders," Freydil said, "but it sort of seems like if something like that is necessary, then it shouldn’t be having campus with students this fall at all.”
Franklin Street rides out post-pandemic reality

By Hannah Lang

Editor's Note: This story was originally published on July 23, 2020.

When Robert Poitras first closed Carolina Brewery at 460 W. Franklin St. to in-person diners in March, he expected it to last a couple of weeks.

"Then the goal post kept moving," Poitras said. "Now, there's no end in sight."

Like many businesses on Franklin Street, Carolina Brewery is still reeling from the ongoing effects of the coronavirus pandemic. After two months of takeout-only service, the restaurant opened to in-person diners again in late May. But business isn't the same, Poitras said, and it doesn't generate the same sales.

"You just don't know what every day is going to bring, from a sales standpoint," he said.

With steep rents, high property taxes and stiff competition among shops and restaurants, running a successful business on Franklin Street was difficult enough before the COVID-19 outbreak. Now, local owners are working to survive an economic shock that is on top of decades-old economic woes.

"For the first time in 31 years, I see loss on my profit and loss statement," Kadoura said.

Like many shops and eateries on Franklin Street, Kadoura's catering operation, Kadoura's, is a big part of the business. The nine white vans that once used to cart food around the Triangle now sit idle in the parking lot. He never fully closed his doors, choosing to take out federal and private loans rather than conserve his losses and lay off the 96 employees he had on staff before the outbreak. But even for a business that's been around for decades, times are tough.

"For the first time in 31 years, I see loss on my profit and loss statement," Kadoura said.

Like many businesses on Franklin Street, Carolina Brewery is still struggling to work with you," Sanchez said. "People already knew us and were looking for something new," she said. "That's why we opened up the business owners who spoke to The Daily Tar Heel said they expect this new way of doing things to last for several months, with the effects lingering long after."

Paid by a complete economic recovery could take a year or longer. "I think the unfortunate truth about our downtown is that full recovery is not the goal," Payne said. "Full recovery and then some is the goal."

Even if Chapel Hill returns to normal, Kadoura said, it's likely some things at Med Deli will change forever."

"I don't see this new way of doing things to last for good."

I believe my sanitizer bottle is going to stay on my table even after they find a vaccine … salt, pepper and sanitizer," he said. "It's going to stay forever."

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Monday, August 3, 2020
**Greek life culture raises concerns in COVID-19 era**

By Cynthia Dong and Kyle Arendas  
Staff Writers

**Editor’s Note:** A version of this story was originally published on July 23, 2020.

Despite UNC’s implementation of community standards to limit the transmission of COVID-19 during the fall semester, many fear the regulations won’t extend to off-campus fraternities—opening the door for potentially deadly outbreaks.

On July 20, the Office of the Chancellor sent out an email stating that as a condition of enrollment, all students must sign a COVID-19 Notice and Student Acknowledgement. By signing, students acknowledge they will follow UNC’s guidelines or risk disenrollment, restrictions to being on campus and disciplinary proceedings.

The Carolina Roadmap says that large-scale gatherings will be prohibited this fall. ... Individuals should avoid gathering in large groups and avoid crowded areas,” the roadmap states.

However, social media activists such as the Instagram account @abolishUNCIFCandPanhel have pointed to an N.C. Policy Watch interview with Meg Miller, the former Deba Kappa Epsilon fraternity house mother, who said members of the fraternity told her they would not wear masks and would continue to party.

**Outbreak concerns**

Rising junior Collyn Smith, a public policy major, worries off-campus fraternities will circumvent guidelines, endangering the living residents.

“Traditionally, these are students who get away with whatever they want, whether it’s sexual assault, gender-based violence, and there’s no regulation,” said Smith. “I think a lot of students are not only tired of that, we’re scared.”

Smith voiced concerns that unequal enforcement of guidelines could deepen existing racial inequalities at UNC if majority-white Greek organizations are regulated less strictly than Black and brown students.

While many fraternities had sororities are off-campus, UNC’s eight Black fraternities and sororities have housing on campus in Rain Village Apartments.

Smith also said student behavior could have an impact on Chapel Hill locals, especially if fraternity parties aren’t banned.

The Carolina Together website states that UNC’s off-campus fraternities and sororities are on private property, and as a part of the Town of Chapel Hill and Orange County, they must follow local ordinances regarding social gatherings and other community guidelines.

Monica Waugh, a Chapel Hill resident, voiced concerns about fraternities holding parties off campus, and UNC’s ability to regulate them.

“As a realtor, we’re allowed to show homes to clients, so I think that having the town’s cases go up would impact so many businesses and residents negatively,” she said. “And it would also concern me, in that it would be very irresponsible.”

Waugh also said, as a former nurse, she’s concerned UNC Hospitals could be overwhelmed by a spike in cases.

“UNC Hospitals, where they are a state hospital, get more people who may not be insured,” Waugh said. “I think that if those people who are underinsured or not insured didn’t get health care, that would be hard.”

**University guidance**

In an email via Media Relations, Cassie Hughes Thomas, assistant director of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, said OFSL is working with Greek organizations and housing corporations to develop house management plans compliant with CDC guidelines and with input from Orange County’s Health Department.

“Those plans include items related to occupancy, dining protocols, meeting capacities and compliance with local and state government requirements and guidelines.” Media Relations said via email. “More details and specifics about these plans will be finalized by the end of the month.”

Recent statewide trends indicate COVID-19 cases are spiking among younger adults, raising concerns about the consequences of any large-scale student gatherings.

“Even though the elderly and people with medical conditions have gotten the most attention in the news, the majority of COVID-19 cases have involved the 18- to 49-year-old age bracket in North Carolina,” said Dr. Jonathan Parr, an assistant professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases at UNC’s School of Medicine.

For Greek life to successfully return to campus, it will require students to make changes to adapt to the current climate, Parr said.

“It means physical distancing from others, using face masks, paying attention to hand hygiene,” Parr said. “While difficult, it means choosing not to attend events where social distancing isn’t practiced, or where substance use might lead to reckless standards.”

**IFC repercussions**

Brandon Wacaser, president of the UNC Interfraternity Council, said in a statement to the DTH that IFC will use its judicial system to enforce a code of conduct and judicial policy.

“The IFC Judicial Board will not tolerate any behavior from member chapters that puts our student body, faculty, or community at risk — this includes social events. Through our judicial system, we do have the ability to enforce regulations put forth by our self-governing body,” he wrote.

The IFC COVID-19 Code of Conduct and Judicial Policy limits member chapters to gatherings of 10 or fewer indoors and 25 or fewer outdoors. Chapters that violate this policy face sanctions ranging from written warnings to recruitment restrictions, fines, social probation and loss of University recognition, based on the risk to public safety.

Will Spillman, vice president of judicial affairs for IFC, said via email that the Judicial Policy was influenced by an academic sanctioning chart in UNC’s Instrument of Student Judicial Governance. He said IFC will evaluate violations similar to academic sanctions, in which each case is different and involves a process of considering all mitigating and aggravating evidence before coming to a conclusion.

He said the Judicial Board will consider the following when examining cases:

To what degree was physical distancing practiced?

Did attendees wear proper facial covering?

Did the offending chapter take any other precautions to protect guests?

Did this event demonstrate a clear disregard for adverse effects on the University community?

Wacaser said IFC will partner with the Good Neighbor Initiative to promote social distancing and mask-wearing, and IFC has set up a hotline to report violations.

(Cynthia Dong) | (Kyle Arendas)  
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“The contact tracing people are trying to figure out why we had our positives so we can do a better job,” he said. “Thank goodness that all of our guys had minor to no symptoms, and they’re doing really well and excited about getting back to work.”

Brown, now entering his second season back in Chapel Hill, said he and his staff have made it clear to players that sitting out the season due to COVID-19-related health concerns will not affect them in judgment.

“It’s not only important to tell your players that they don’t have to play if they don’t feel comfortable, it’s important that they believe you,” Brown said. “I’ve learned a lot of things in the last four months just from listening to players, so that’s the most important thing right now for us.”

Brown said the positive tests and ensuing postponement of workouts could be used as a learning experience ahead of the student body’s return.

“I said let’s take a deep breath and let’s get our medical people look at this more closely and determine exactly what we’re doing and how we’re doing it and make sure we take a look at everybody’s safety as well. It’s inevitable that you are going to have some (positives), and you’ve got to learn from them,” Brown said.

Brown said the Tar Heels will wear masks in the weight room and face shields as masks over their helmets, and coaches will utilize 6-foot sticks to maintain proper social distance from players when enhanced workouts and team walks begin.

Despite the positive tests pouring in from programs around the country — and cancellations from conferences like the Ivy League and Colonial Athletic Association — Brown said he still believes there will be a college football season.

“The real answer is that we’ve all got to do what we’re told to do, we’ve all got to fight this virus as a whole in our country, and as the virus slows down, we have a better chance to play,” Brown said.

With decisions from the PAC-12 and Big Ten to move to conference-only schedules, a similar decision from the ACC could come. If the ACC moves to a conference-only schedule, the Tar Heels would miss week one and two match ups against Central Florida and Auburn, respectively, a Sept. 19 date move to Madison and a Nov. 7 home game against Connecticut.

James Madison, a CAA member, plans to move forward with an independent schedule this fall despite its conference’s decision to cancel the season.

“I think we need a commissioner of college football,” Brown said. “Right now we just seem to be disjointed and we don’t have a single voice together. I would’ve liked to have a commissioner where people were talking about when it’s safe to come back as a group, how we’re going to run the season, who’s going to play, when are they going to play.”

Many options have been proposed for alternatives to conference-only schedules, including the possibility of plus-one and plus-two models — in which teams would keep one or two out-of-conference games and eliminate the rest — and moving the season, as some states’ high school athletic associations have already decided to do. ACC commissioner John Swofford said the conference will make plans for fall sports by the end of July.

Brown said his focus is on ensuring the Tar Heels are ready to take the field when the time comes.

“The only thing that is assured is that we’re not assured of anything right now,” Brown said. “People have asked me, ‘What about the spring, could you play in the spring?’ I’m not going there because I’m planning on playing in the fall.”

Mack Brown looks ahead after COVID-19 cases
Sports Monday, August 3, 2020

By Zachary Crain
Sports Editor

Editor’s Note: This story was originally published on July 21, 2020.

After a short hiatus, the North Carolina football team is back in action.

On July 8, UNC announced it had identified 37 positive COVID-19 tests among players, coaches and Carolina Athletics staff. Following this announcement, the North Carolina football team suspended voluntary workouts before reopening the weight room July 16.

Enhanced workouts — during which the Tar Heels will hold workouts for the first time since March — are slated to begin Friday before fall practice officially begins on Aug. 7.

Head coach Mack Brown held a press conference July 21 to discuss the team’s resumption of voluntary workouts.

Baseball players move to MLB despite early end to season
By Jeremiah Holloway
Staff Writer

Editor’s Note: This story was originally published on July 21, 2020.

The North Carolina baseball team will have to adjust to some major departures, as Dylan Harris, Aaron Sabato and Gianluca Dalatri have signed MLB contracts this July.

Harris, Sabato and Dalatri signed contracts with the Baltimore Orioles, Minnesota Twins and St. Louis Cardinals, respectively. These decisions came a few months after student-athletes in spring sports were granted an extra year of eligibility after the NCAA canceled all remaining competition in March.

Harris was an undrafted acquisition by the Orioles, signing as a free agent after the shortened five-round MLB Draft. Harris had an impressive start to the 2020 season prior to its shutdown. In 19 games for the Tar Heels, Harris was hitting .274 with five home runs and was second on the team with three stolen bases. The senior outfielder, who arrived to UNC in 2016 after attending Walters State, will look to further develop his abilities on a professional level.

Sabato is arriving with the Twins organization after being selected as the 27th overall pick in the first round. In his career at UNC, the first baseman had a batting average of .332 and was a key member of the Tar Heels hitting squad. He recorded 69 hits, 81 RBIs, 25 runs and 21 home runs in 81 games as a Tar Heel, including seven home runs in 19 games North Carolina played this season.

Sabato was selected as an All-American in both of his seasons at UNC, once on the first team and once on the second team.

Dalatri began his UNC pitching career in 2017. In that season, the right-hander was named to the first-year All-ACC and first-year All-American teams. He also made third-team All-ACC in the same season. Following his early success, he was plagued with injuries for much of his remaining tenure in Chapel Hill. In the 28 games Dalatri pitched for the Tar Heels, he threw 115 strikeouts and recorded a 1.04 earned run average.

With plans for the MLB to return in July, these three will have to accommodate to rule changes and a shifted organizational structure in the minor leagues. Changes for the upcoming MLB season will include a universal designated hitter, as well as an automatic runner on second base during extra innings.

The season will also be shortened to 60 regular season games, with pitchers now given a three batter minimum per appearance, which could lead to longer outings for relievers.

Though going through minors is the expected next step before getting meaningful action in the MLB, these adjustments may be in place beyond this season. For the 2020 season, minor league baseball has been canceled, meaning none of these three are likely to see Tar Heels likely won’t see action this year.

North Carolina will look to fill a void without Harris and Sabato in the batting order. While the team has reliable assets on its roster, the loss of two of the team’s most impactful players is certainly prove to be challenging. The pitching staff will likely continue to be deep for the Tar Heels, as the team demonstrated in the shortened 2020 season.
UNC athletes react to killing of George Floyd

Scholars evaluate UNC athletes’ responses to the protests for racial justice

By PJ Morales
Staff Writer

Editor’s Note: This story was originally published on June 10, 2020. Since its publication, protests against police brutality have continued across the nation.

From the Astros to the Vikings, sports teams and organizations nationwide have published statements condemning police brutality and racial injustice in response to a surge in protests across the country.

UNC was no exception, with many of North Carolina’s varsity sports programs making public statements or taking action in the days following the events and initial protests.

Matthew Andrews is a history professor at UNC who has taught classes that address how sports and race intersect throughout U.S. history.

Upon reading many of the statements published by UNC’s athletic programs, Andrews said he appreciated the sentiments put forth, but they had one crucial flaw: timeliness.

“In all honesty, my first reaction was, ‘What took you so long?’” Andrews said. “I feel like the opportunity has been there for so long for people in prominent positions to make strong statements like this. I’m glad people are doing it, but not doing it, 100 percent, but I wish people had taken stronger stances on these important issues earlier.”

Andrews also expressed his longstanding frustration with “general statements that express a need for unity and coming together.” One example Andrews referenced was North Carolina’s head men’s basketball coach Roy Williams, whose official statement did not explicitly include terms such as racism or police brutality.

Andrews said he was “disappointed” by such statements, saying general language is simply not specific enough to address the issues. In his view, using specific language that refers directly to issues of racism is “important” and “symbolic.”

“I do believe there are degrees of statements out there, and I think some people have said the right thing, and some people have pointed towards the right thing, but not quite,” Andrews said. “In some of these statements, when you say ‘police brutality’ or ‘Black Lives Matter,’ you’re making a critique of very specific things. Sometimes you need to critique things to promote other things.”

Len Elmore, a sports management professor at Columbia University and 10-year NBA veteran, said any statement, no matter how strong, is only as good as the solutions that come out of it. Elmore — who teaches a course dealing with athlete activism and social justice — emphasized the power that athletes and protesters can have in pressuring teams and organizations to act.

“I think there’s a genuine understanding that if [organizations] don’t do something, then this is kind of a tinderbox here,” Elmore said.

The demonstrations haven’t ceased, and it doesn’t look like they’re going to end anytime soon. The most encouraging part is that, unlike past demonstrations, these demonstrations are pretty diverse in their participation. It’s not just the Black community or brown community gathering together trying to fight the power. It’s people who are part of the power structure that are out there demonstrating and putting their safety at risk in order to send a message.

Elmore emphasized the historical importance Black athletes have held as catalysts of change, two of the most notable examples being Jackie Robinson and Muhammad Ali. Elmore said today’s athletes “know upon whose shoulders they stand.” He credited much of their effectiveness as activists to this same tradition, coupled with the highly public nature of modern communication and social media.

“The use of social media to get the message out and the visceral nature of being a witness to these crimes; it moves anybody, whether you’re an athlete or not,” Elmore said. “Athletes now have achieved a celebrity status where they have a voice and they are influencers again, thankfully, through social media. Equally as importantly, they also have leverage… it’s the star athletes who are stepping to the forefront and putting their safety at risk in the fact that their influence seems to be greater today,” Malchoff said. “I feel like their voices are being heard. That may be a result not just of reacting to this one particular terrible incident, but rather that, over time, their voices are being heard more. Their rights and their opinions are being considered more.”

A sign of this empowerment may be student-athletes feeling the freedom to criticize many of the public statements being made in the aftermath of Floyd’s death. A notable example of this came from sophomore men’s basketball player Armando Bacot, who tweeted his suspicion about many of the statements made recently, implying some were done to “protect their brand.”

Malchoff said that, going forward, athletes are going to play a key role in keeping everyone they work with — coaches, executives and organizations themselves — honest and accountable for bringing the change they say they desire.

“Whether it’s the NBA, the NFL or any other group, the fact that people are speaking out on this is obviously a good thing,” Malchoff said. “Now, the $64,000 question is: ‘What happens next?’ Does this result in tangible actions that begin to address things that many of us find unacceptable or horrible? Will this be the start of the change that many of us seek?”

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Every UNC sports team, in addition to many individual athletes such as basketball player Garrison Brooks (bottom right) and football player Sam Howell (middle left) have made statements in support of the recent Black Lives Matter and anti-police brutality protests.