


## Orange County Health Department & UNC Chapel Hill COVID-19 Response

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Health Director



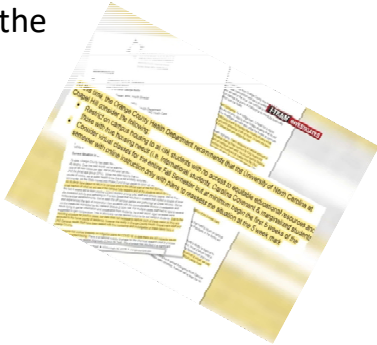
ORANGE COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1

## OC Memo Gate

Some key issues/concerns early in the pandemic included:

- Robust Testing Capacity
  - National Supply Shortage
  - Delayed test results
  - On campus testing
- Isolation & Quarantine Capacity
  - On-Campus Housing
  - Greek Houses
- Contact Tracing/Case Investigation Capacity
  - OCHD Staffing
  - Campus Health Staffing



2

## July/August 2020 Realities

- Orange County case count at record high
  - Significant increase in cases among those in 18-24 age group and 24-49 age group
- Guidance from UNC Board of Governors about Fall Semester Reopening Plans
- UNC Campus Health not using CCTO (COVID Community Team Outreach) platform for contact tracing and reporting

3

## How Did We “Fix” Things in 2020

- OCHD/Campus Health continued daily calls to address work flows and data needs
  - Medical Director, CD Nurse Manager, and Epi Lead physically worked in Campus Health during the surge before campus moved to remote classes only
  - Weekly Technical Assistance Calls with NC DHHS, UNC Campus Health and OCHD
- OCHD Medical Director and CD/EH Staff facilitated regular sessions with Greek Houses
- Joint Communication Efforts to Campus Community as Students began to leave campus
- Weekly calls with Chapel Hill Police, Campus Police and OCHD to discuss compliance issues on and around campus community
- Daily calls with Chancellor, Provost, OC Medical Director and OC Health Director

4

## 2021 Realities

- Campus has a strong testing program
- OCHD has adequate staffing to handle case investigation/contact tracing
- Continued weekly calls with law enforcement partners
- Plan review and consultations with Athletic Department
- Health Director presented at Faculty Call about Vaccinations
- Continued weekly calls with Chancellor & Provost

5

## Lessons Learned

- Transparent communication with all a MUST (partners, elected officials, faculty, students, community, etc.)
- Best laid plans may not work if public health conditions change.
- Remain flexible and have multiple 'off ramps' that allow you to scale up when needed
- Testing is key to staying ahead of COVID transmission **AND** robust testing requires case investigators and adequate quarantine space for appropriate management of new cases.

6



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