

Anonymous Student Comments concerning OChem In-Person Classes & COVID (1/26/2022)

Written Comments

- ⇒ “In the laboratory, fume hoods around the class were to be opened and turned on throughout the duration of the class period to maximize air ventilation. However, for a period of roughly 30 minutes, they were closed because it was hard to hear over them, therefore compromising the role of the fume hoods. Students were told all surfaces and areas would be properly sanitized before being used. Upon arriving at the lecture hall, we found that the desks looked and felt slightly grimy. We are not sure if the lecture and lab rooms are sanitized between each class.”
- ⇒ With the covid cases spiking more than ever I'm just concerned about getting covid since my parents are older and I have a young niece at home. Which is why I'm not really comfortable putting myself at risk attending classes in person and would much rather have an option to go online. Don't get me wrong I'd rather go in person if covid wasn't a factor, but I'd rather go online than have the chance of getting covid.
- ⇒ When a student expressed concerns for high risk family members and not feeling comfortable going back in person for their safety Dr Woodbury responded with "well either you want the class or not" essentially backing the student into a position where they could either risk their own / family members lives to attend class OR to drop the class and potentially delay any plans they had of transferring/getting a degree.
- ⇒ The blatant spread of misinformation is really concerning. I was told that after testing positive for covid-19, I would get no email from the De Anza Student Health Serviced COVID-19 Response Team regarding whether I was clear to come back or not. Luckily, I took it upon myself to do a little more research and submitted a report about my results. I did in fact receive an email telling me that I am not clear to come back until the date they provided and within the circumstances that they had listed in the email. Imagine if I had not done what I did and just came back to school, I would be putting myself and others at risk because I was practically told that I can come back when I feel like I'm "ready" to do so. This isn't the first time I've been given the wrong information regarding covid-19 safety and the chemistry department, but I feel that this is the most concerning instance.
- ⇒ After being alerted of COVID contact, was provided Rapid Test Kit. However, rapid test required downloaded app, not compatible with family's devices deeming the rapid test kit as unusable.
- ⇒ For big classes like ochem, I would prefer if multiple sections for a class did not have lecture together. There's no room to socially distance and I doubt the ventilation helps with so many people in one room so close to each other
- ⇒ My main concern is the current peak of cases and despite that De Anza has still maintained going back to in-person classes.
- ⇒ It is extremely concerning that on the very first day we returned to school someone tested positive and our class got exposed. Our teacher even got COVID (albeit post in person) even though he takes lots of precautions and double masks with medical-grade masks; if he isn't protected, how are we supposed to be? Not everyone has access to medical-grade masks that the CDC has recommended, and we don't know when the shipment of the ones provided by the government will come. The rooms in De Anza's classrooms do not follow social distancing protocols, even if we try to ourselves, and even in lab we constantly pass by others in close proximity at some point.
- ⇒ I also think it is counterintuitive to move back in person, as professors will still have to open Zoom and record meetings for those who cannot attend school or test positive for COVID. As seen on the first day of class, De Anza's WiFi is not reliant and creates multiple problems with Zoom. I'd imagine whoever was trying to join the meeting or view the recording after was very confused. While there can be complications online as well, teachers usually know how to handle Zoom after being online for the past year or so. Hypothetically, if half the class managed to test positive for COVID or could not go to campus physically, attending in person would be pointless because half of the class would miss the content and would have to make it up online. It would also be unfair to those who get to experience the lab while others don't due to factors out of their control.
- ⇒ I know De Anza has not moved online due to complications mentioned by Dr. Gray and the Department and DASG have been talking about the COVID issue extensively, so I know the best conclusion will be reached. I do think moving online would be in the best interest of the safety of

students. I understand wanting to stay in person - as I was excited to go back myself -, as lab experience is crucial and we are not receiving that amongst other reasons to return, but I think everyone's health is more important and for this quarter we should remain online.

- ⇒ At the start of omicron when it became surging all across the world, I felt like De Anza had not communicated nor asked for our opinions but rather wanted to go in person as soon as possible. On the first day of spring quarter, De Anza has had one case which can be spread into many cases. However, the way they have handled the situation felt rushed and felt like they did not have any care in their students as they wanted students to be tested as quickly as possible in order to go back in person the next week. I do understand that for teachers, teaching in person is much easier compared to online and gaining lab experience is needed for transferring into a higher level college. However, our lives are at risk and even for students who live with their family. For me, I live with my family and my mom and dad are at an older age where the virus can be at a high risk and dangerous to them which I want to be able to avoid.
- ⇒ I do not think that going back in person will be comfortable for me as well as others as omicron is continuing to surge at this moment. They're many students who prefer to remain online due to the cases increasing and as their family and friends are at risk but it seems like De Anza does not care but rather have us go in person for lab experience. I think the main priority is our health as well as keeping our love ones safe. As there are many types of covid variants around the world besides omicron.
- ⇒ Opinion: We should go back in person
- ⇒ Personal concerns about returning to online instructions: Tuition is expensive (even more so for international students), we are paying for the education and lab experience. Lab experience is valuable going into 4-year universities. For students who are thinking about pushing the lab experience for 12C, there are students who are not taking 12C, thus will proceed to 4-years without lab experience. And if students decide to take 12C at the 4-year, there will be an obvious lack of lab experience for transfer students. In-person teaching can be much more interactive. Some students don't learn well online and have been struggling, some professors can struggle with technology as well.
- ⇒ Suggestions: Hybrid setting, in person lab and online lecture since lecture has around 60 students. Better execution of safety measures and social distancing. Provide more covid test kits and require all students to conduct online self-testing before coming to class
- ⇒ Points to consider: Classes in gen chem department and other departments have continued in-person instruction normally. What safety concerns do students that want to go back online have? And Can De Anza adjust any plans to improve safety measures during in person class? What are the other schools in the district doing? Will this affect De Anza College's students' transfer acceptance rate if we are the only school without lab experience?

Spoken Concerns

- ⇒ Agree with how ventilated the lab rooms are, but there is no social distancing in tight lecture halls.
- ⇒ Two sections are in the same lecture halls. 50-60 students. Tight spaces without room for social distancing.
- ⇒ Lack of communication and disorganization from DASG regarding the increase in Omicron cases. Student lives with high-risk family members, and it is impossible to social distance in the lab room. 80% of students voted saying they preferred to keep classes online but received response that the class is unable to because was advertised to be in person for Winter.
- ⇒ Big COVID outbreak on first day of classes. Was not alerted that someone tested positive, received no testing kit either.
- ⇒ Tested positive for COVID, had contact because of shared lecture halls. No notification of the contact since the contact person was from different section and had to wait 5 hours for PCR test. No resources from college.
- ⇒ Unfair to compare community colleges to CSU/UC's because of difference in resources.