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The effects of going back to on-campus at the University of Utah

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At the beginning of Fall semester, the University of Utah decided to return to on-campus instruction. Since it's start, there were many debates as to whether this would be a positive thing or not as there would be thousands of students in one place for hours. There are many debates, but it looks like the U of U has proven they can take on new things and make sure every student and faculty feel safe.

There were many challenges to going back on campus as the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the way universities had previously functioned before. Many students found that going back to on-campus instruction was harder than before the pandemic. According to Professor Christie Toth "there were a lot of uncertainties in the beginning of the semester, we didn't know what was going to happen; whether there was going to be a surge of Covid outbreaks and everything having to be shut down again. Everyone just braced themselves for the worst." Not only were professors at the University of Utah preparing for the worst, but so were students. Everyone



seemed to be waiting for the magical words that would send everyone back to online instruction, but it never happened.

Besides the hanging cloud of uncertainty that hung over the university throughout the semester, as the closing of Fall 2021 came to an end, it seemed to dissipate.

Students and faculty found that, despite their worries, there wasn't an overwhelming amount of Covid cases that everyone thought would happen, everyone had the

opportunity to receive the vaccination, and classes were mostly normal. The past semester has proven that even though the pandemic is still lingering in our minds, it doesn't mean we can't go back to the way it was before. However, "only doing face-to-face and expecting students to be able to handle going back to class without some struggle isn't going to work" comments Professor Christie Toth and she is right. After being in an online setting for so long, going straight back to face-to-face without some leniency is going to have some backlash on the university. Even though the University of Utah has taken precautions in order to go back to business as usual, there are still some things that need work in order to better benefit the students and faculty for the future.

With this pandemic, it has broken standards that maybe should have been broken a long time ago and has created new opportunities for universities to look at and possibly even implement into their curriculum. What is possible now that wasn't before for students, faculty, and universities?