

Reactions to a pandemic: the coronavirus brings mathematicians to the front line.

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The coronavirus pandemic that we are now experiencing has affected us all in different and profound ways. After our classrooms were closed in March of 2020, I joined the many mathematicians and biologists who used the tools of our trade to help leaders make informed decisions about re-opening our campus. As the effects of the virus on our health and society became more clear, several other ongoing threads of my research program were also affected. In this talk, I will share the work we did for our own campus: a mathematical model designed as a tool for college administrators, faculty and staff. This research builds on models designed by other experts, work that was done quickly in the early months of the pandemic. The modeling process is still evolving, as we struggle to return to work safely. I will close with a glimpse at a few other ongoing projects, and a reflection on how we as a community respond to local and global emergencies.