

2022 Pandemic Impact Statement

- **Cross-cutting Impact**

- During 2022, I had a major increase in caregiving responsibilities as two close family members were infected with COVID. Due to underlying health conditions, it was quite stressful and required several trips to the clinics.
- Another family member suffered anxiety attacks due to pandemic related stress. This furthered increased caregiving responsibilities and time.

- **Impact on Research**

- Several research assistants in my research group were infected with COVID-19. This adversely impacted their research progress, reducing the research outputs such as publications.

- **Impact on Teaching**

- Many students in my courses were infected with COVID-19. Many others complained about mental health issues. These required an unusually large number of requests for accommodations substantially increasing the time outside lectures and office hours to deal with individual situations.
- In addition, the teaching assistants and students appeared to be less prepared than those in pre-pandemic years. This required additional preparation to review pre-requisite material and provide additional help to students and TAs.
- Hybrid format offerings required additional effort balancing the needs of in-class and on-zoom students during lectures and office hours.

- **Impact on Service**

- Key staff members on time-critical large efforts (e.g., the AI Institute full proposal due mid-2022) were infected with COVID-19. Further, multiple key researchers critical for the AI Institute RSV on Dec. 1st, 2022 were infected with COVID-19. It forced us to make several adjustments during the short window to prepare for the reverse site visit.
- The co-chair role for the CRA conference at Snowbird (July 2022) required substantially higher effort as it was among the earliest conferences to return to in-person format despite lingering uncertainties. We had to identify many precautions to reduce the risk by providing masks and COVID-test, encouraging mask wearing indoors, moving meals outdoors, etc. This required substantially more time to identify risks and ways to mitigate those.
- The program co-chair role for the ACM SIGSPATIAL (Nov. 2022, in-person) also required higher effort to manage COVID risk.