



**REOPENING PLANS
FOR
UNDERGRADUATE RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
IN PHASE 3**

Name of Institution: Wesleyan University

Senior COVID-19 Coordinator (Name and Title): Rick Culliton, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students

Email and cell phone: rculliton@wesleyan.edu, 860-685-2627

Intended date of arrival of the first students: August 22, 2020

Intended start date of classes: August 31, 2020

Intended duration of the fall semester or quarter: 15 weeks culminating with finals ending on December 12th

Date submitted: July 31, 2020

PART 1 - PLAN FOR REPOPULATING THE CAMPUS (the reentry of students)

Classrooms:

Wesleyan University has spent the past ten weeks developing a plan to return to a residential campus for the fall 2020 semester. That work began with a committee of faculty and staff reviewing and considering curricular options for the fall semester. After considering several possible strategies for returning to residential education, the Curricular Contingency Planning Task Force (CCPTF) recommended returning to campus a week earlier than scheduled, limiting breaks during the semester and positioning the campus to move to remote learning at Thanksgiving, if necessary, in an effort to reduce the likelihood that travel to and from campus would increase the potential for COVID-19 infection.

A second group has focused on the operational issues related to returning to campus and has focused on plans that will return students, faculty and staff to campus and work to reduce the risk of members of the campus community becoming infected and limiting the spread of illness among members of the campus community. In addition to the planning that has happened to date, all members of the campus community will be expected to play an important role in taking steps to reduce the likelihood of illness.

The following are some of the steps that have been taken:

Classroom capacity has been revised in 184 classrooms and 16 non-traditional teaching spaces to achieve minimum 6-foot distance between occupants. During the fall semester, classes will be delivered in a mix of online, hybrid and in-person with about 50% of courses being online which reduces demand for classroom space. All classes have been updated in the course listing available to students so they can select courses that will work for their individual situation. All of the planned classes have been matched with appropriately-sized classrooms. New floorplans identifying a minimum spacing of 6 feet and maximum room capacity have been posted in each classroom and online for faculty review. Unused furniture in classrooms will be disabled or removed from the room and placed into storage. Classrooms will be disinfected between every class and a minimum 30-minute break has

been scheduled between classes to reduce congestion and enable disinfectant to dwell per manufacturers specifications.

Some lab-based courses will break large groups into smaller cohorts, enabling every student to have hands-on learning while maintaining social distancing.

Dining Halls:

In an effort to reduce density in dining areas to accommodate 6-feet of social distance between patrons, the following space changes to the dining program are being implemented for the fall semester:

- Seating throughout Wesleyan's Marketplace in the Usdan University Center will be reconfigured to create appropriate social distancing
- Additional seating for student dining has been added in the following areas at Wesleyan: Daniel Family Commons, throughout the first floor of Usdan including Usdan 108 and 110 (meeting rooms), Beckham Hall is being converted into a new dining hall with food service and seating
- WesShop, an on-campus grocery/convenient store, will operate via an order ahead mobile app and students will pick up their food "curb side"
- The Summerfields dining hall will be entirely "to-go" service with orders placed online via a new mobile app. Summerfield hours and offerings have been modified and will run continuously from 11:00 am to 1:00 am.
- Pi Café will be entirely "to-go" with grab-and-go meal service and drip coffee/tea. Customized coffee beverages will not be served

To protect the dining staff as well as the students and improve sanitation measures, several programmatic changes are being implemented:

- Elimination of self-service stations (salad bar)
- Elimination of guest personal mugs, cups and containers
- Temporarily shifting to disposable plate ware and no longer using reusable goods
- All meals at all locations will be packaged in single use to-go containers
- Face masks must be worn to enter all locations where dining is held and at all times unless when eating or drinking when seated appropriately distanced
- Spaces will be outfitted with signage directing patrons through the dining spaces avoiding two-way traffic and encouraging appropriate social distancing while in queue
- Limits will be placed in terms of how long students can remain in dining halls
- Dining hall transactions will be contactless
- Staff will adhere to new cleaning and disinfecting schedule and will wear appropriate face coverings in the workplace

Athletics: Declaration that NCAA and NESCAC guidance is being followed on athletic training, practices and competitions per conference guidelines.

Wesleyan Athletics will not participate in any intercollegiate competition and no visitors will be permitted to utilize Wesleyan athletic facilities. Athletics will focus on providing student athletes with small group practices that adhere to social distancing guidelines, with the goal of progressing to full team practices as guidance allows. Additionally, individual and small group positional meetings will be scheduled for video analysis as well as weight training and speed/conditioning sessions. Winter sport practice will begin on October 15 and a decision will be made later in the fall whether teams will return after winter break. Spring sports teams will be permitted 15 coach-led practices during the fall to help prepare for the upcoming season. Sports Medicine staff will work with coaches and student-athletes to develop enhanced personal hygiene and equipment cleaning procedures.

Spaces “where other groups congregate”: Declaration that 6-feet of physical spacing has been achieved where students congregate, such as in libraries and common spaces/student unions and with extracurricular activities.

Furniture was reconfigured to maintain a minimum 6 feet between occupants including Plexiglas Panels if required. Common areas in campus buildings have been posted with signage requiring 6-foot distances.

In addition, where campuses operate shuttles or other transportation, see Update #5 for additional guidance on campus transportation.

Advance messaging will be sent to all students so they can be aware of the new procedures affecting the Wesleyan RIDE program. Students will be expected to read the material and abide by procedures. Students should plan on being less reliant on the usual headway and regular routes/stops during the semester. To provide the protection needed for the safety of all riders, service reductions will be required. The list below indicates the procedures anticipated during the upcoming semester. Students should be encouraged to use alternatives to motorized transportation such as biking and walking. Public Safety will be providing extra foot and bike patrol.

1. All riders will be required to wear a mask prior to entering the shuttle bus. A limited number of disposable masks will be available to the driver should a passenger’s mask become damaged or otherwise unusable. Service will be refused to riders not using proper personal protective equipment.
2. Smaller ride vehicles will not be utilized for transportation other than for medical escort which will involve generally only one passenger and the transport is scheduled in advance. The grocery shuttle will operate with the same restrictions as the RIDE.
3. The 14 passenger transport vehicle will not exceed 50% occupancy. The driver will be responsible for being aware of the number of occupants on his or her bus at all times. To maintain effective spacing between riders, seats that are ineligible for occupancy will be marked.

4. Rather than running a traditional loop route the driver will only receive specific requests for transportation. Requests will be made by telephone. Pertinent contact information will be on the Transportation website and available through Public Safety. The driver can give an estimated time of arrival and remind the student that they will need to wear a mask. Drivers can also advise the student how many seats are open in real time.
5. A driver barrier will be installed and the interior of the vehicle will be cleaned with CDC approved disinfectant on high touch surfaces.
6. Surfaces will be cleaned at the end of each driver's shift and sanitizer will be available for student and driver use.

Residence Halls:

As we prepare for the return of students to campus for the fall semester, Wesleyan has taken several steps to address residential living on campus. Wesleyan has eliminated all triple occupancy rooms and will house students in singles and double occupancy rooms. All students who identified themselves at greater risk have been housed in appropriate housing, unless the student chose to remain in the housing they originally selected.

Wesleyan has defined a family unit as a group of students who live together as roommates or housemates. When interacting with others beyond one's family unit, proper safety precautions (including social distancing and face coverings) should be followed.

Common areas in residence halls, including kitchens and lounges have been posted with new floor plans and occupancy limits to reflect the 6-foot distancing.

Residence hall bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected by janitorial staff 7 days per week and 2 times per day. A daily written cleaning log will be kept in every restroom on campus. Students living in residence halls will be assigned designated restroom facilities. Paper towel and soap dispensers have been installed in every residence hall bathroom. Student cubbies in residence hall bathrooms will be removed or disabled to prevent students from storing personal items in bathrooms. Students living in houses and apartments will be equipped with cleaning supplies and instructions for cleaning and disinfecting their own bathrooms. They will be reminded not to store personal items in their bathrooms.

Orientation/Arrival:

The Orientation program provides new students with an important introduction to most major aspects of the vibrant Wesleyan community. Due to social-distancing requirements and phased arrival to campus, nearly all our usual content will be delivered virtually. We began online Orientation activities in mid-July and events will occur each week until the beginning of classes. We expect to begin expanding new students' Wesleyan circles by allowing each new and transfer student to attend virtual orientation group meetings. These small groups will

convene weekly to review orientation programming and discuss important campus issues, to help promote community building.

Students' arrival to campus and move-in will be quite different than in the past in order to minimize the number of students moving into each location at the same time, maintain social distancing, reduce the number of family members on campus, and facilitate arrival testing for COVID-19. Residential Life will coordinate a phased student arrival and move-in during the last week of August. Students will be able to sign up for a day and time slot that is convenient for their travel plans within the following parameters: students arriving between August 24-30, with students from further away encouraged to arrive earlier in that week. Students will be expected to adhere to their assigned day/time and limit the number of family members who accompany them to campus. Family members will not be allowed in the residential buildings.

Recognizing that flight arrangements have become challenging from many destinations, students who will be flying to the area may book their flights for within the appropriate timeframes above and notify Residential Life of their arrival date and approximate time. Residential Life will provide an optional opportunity over the weekend of August 22-23 for students living within driving distance to drop off belongings before their scheduled arrival day.

Personal protective equipment:

Wesleyan has ordered 15,000 100% cotton washable face masks for staff/faculty/students and will be distributing three per person. Wesleyan has also ordered 5,000 washable neck gaiters, 35,000 surgical masks, 10,000 N95 masks without exhalation valves, 1,000 KN95 masks, these items will be distributed as required for certain jobs.

Students have been instructed that they must wear masks or face coverings that cover the mouth and nose at all times when outside of the private residential space, in classrooms, and any other time when social distancing standards cannot be maintained. Students who are unable to wear a face covering or mask because of a medical condition are required to consult with Health Services and/or with their primary health care provider to document their condition and need for an accommodation. Students who repeatedly do not abide by these guidelines, may be removed from campus.

The University will be distributing 5,000 Kootey Keys to faculty, staff and students to use for touch points on door opening. Approximately 30,000 pairs of gloves are available for faculty and staff as required as well as 2,300 pairs of disposable shoe coverings.

Faculty/staff have also been informed that they must wear masks or face coverings that cover the mouth and nose at all times when outside of their private office or cubicle and any other time when social distancing cannot be maintained. Masks or face coverings must also be worn in classrooms. Employees who are unable to wear a face covering or mask because of a medical

condition must complete a Special Considerations form. The University reserves the right to require a person to relocate or leave campus on an expedited basis if it determines that the person presents a health or safety risk to others.

Other PPE requirements:

Staff in higher risk areas (health services, public safety, physical plant, and dining) have been provided N95 masks, gloves, gowns, head coverings, shoe coverings, and face shields if required for their specific roles. Where face-to-face encounters cannot be avoided, the University has installed Plexiglas barriers.

Disinfection:

The University is following State of CT guidelines for cleaning/disinfecting protocols. Bottles of 70% ethyl alcohol spray (or Lysol for certain equipment) and paper towels will be placed inside every restroom on campus and next to all shared equipment. Employees will be responsible for cleaning their own workstations and shared equipment. Wesleyan will provide approved cleaning products for this purpose. Cleaning supplies, including 7 million disposable wipes and bottles of 70% ethyl alcohol spray to be provided to every faculty, staff and student to disinfect personal items including: computers, phones, workstations, and electronic devices.

Our janitorial crew will clean individual workstations only upon request during the pandemic. Increased Cleaning Specifications, frequency and documentation campus-wide with an emphasis on the disinfection of high touch surfaces such as doorknobs, elevators, light switches, handrails and stairwells as recommended by CDC and required by the State of Connecticut. For example:

- Disinfection of classrooms between classes using CDC approved disinfectants applied directly to surfaces without the use of electrostatic foggers
- Increased frequency of bathroom cleaning to a minimum of twice daily
- 15,000 bottles of 70% ethanol hand sanitizers will be distributed for personal use to all faculty, staff and students.

Janitorial staffing levels have been adjusted and additional staff have been hired to accommodate new cleaning requirements.

Signage has been added to every building reminding all faculty/staff/students of the importance of carefully washing hands frequently, of 6-foot distancing, identifying and reporting symptoms of Covid, recording attendance, and reporting violations. Hand sanitizer has been added to all buildings on campus to improve personal hygiene.

Travel:

Wesleyan has made the following statement in the student code of conduct “all University-sponsored travel is suspended through the remainder of the 2020 calendar year. Students are discouraged from traveling outside of the Middletown area (beyond a 25-mile radius from campus), and will be required to self-quarantine upon return to campus as per CDC and DPH guidelines.” In the staff/faculty Shared Commitment document it is noted that “all University-sponsored travel is suspended through the remainder of the 2020 calendar year. Employees are discouraged from traveling to areas with high incidents of outbreak and will be required to self-quarantine upon return from certain areas as per CDC and DPH guidelines.”

Staffing:

The University continues to promote working remotely in the interest of limiting the number of staff who need to be on campus. A number of faculty will be only teaching remotely thereby reducing the number of people who are coming and going from campus. All employees who have COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, chills, sore throat, muscle aches, and loss of taste and/or smell) or have had a known COVID-19 exposure are being directed to stay at home and report their symptoms to Rosemary Murphy at the Health Center. Employees with underlying health conditions should consult their personal health care provider to determine their level of risk. Individuals in a high risk category or who have other considerations should complete a Special Considerations form and discuss their need for an accommodation with Human Resources.

Student Health Guidance

Students who have COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, chills, sore throat, muscle aches, and loss of taste and/or smell) or have had a known COVID-19 exposure prior to arrival have been directed to delay their return to campus until they are symptom-free or until have completed a 14-day quarantine period. Those who develop symptoms or have a known exposure to COVID-19 after returning to campus have been directed to remain in their residence and report their symptoms to Health Services for further instruction.

Students at high risk for complications of COVID-19 should decide whether returning to campus is in their best interest. Those who believe that they have high-risk medical conditions should consult with Health Services and/or with their primary health care provider.

Campus access:

The University will not be allowing campus visitors during the fall semester (speakers, performers, vendors, interview candidates, prospective students/families, etc.), except where granted an exception by the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Chief Administrative Officer, or the Vice President for Student Affairs. Students will also not be permitted to have visitors to campus during the fall semester.

Service contractors and vendors of the University must submit a COVID-19 work plan to the satisfaction of the University before coming to campus. All employees and contractors must complete COVID-19 training and self-certify that they understand the expectations prior to reporting to campus. Employees are required to record their visits to campus on a daily basis either electronically or via a logbook placed at each building entrance. Each employee must self-certify on a daily basis that they do not have Covid symptoms via the log-in process. Access control systems will be utilized at buildings (where they exist) to provide an additional level of gating and contact tracing. Visitors will not be permitted inside campus buildings.

Testing upon arrival:

Every student will be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival to campus and follow state guidelines around quarantine. Additional testing information is outlined in Section 2 Monitoring Health.

PART 2 – PLAN FOR MONITORING THE HEALTH OF STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF

Testing of students in residential institutions for the COVID-19 virus upon arrival on campus:

Wesleyan University has spent considerable time developing a plan for the monitoring of the health of students, faculty and staff in preparation for the return for the fall 2020 semester. Wesleyan has partnered with Broad Institute in Cambridge, MA to conduct robust, ongoing testing of all students, faculty and staff on campus. The test will use a self-administered anterior nasal swab and is a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test. During the week of August 24, testing will take place initially upon a student's arrival to campus and on a twice a week basis for all students on-campus (or living off-campus but coming to campus). All faculty/staff who are working on campus will also be tested regularly.

The University may consider reducing testing frequency to weekly if initial results indicate low rates of infection across the population during the first weeks of the semester. Twice weekly testing gives us the best chance of detecting COVID-19 in the pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic stage and offers us the opportunity to not only isolate the student who has COVID-19 but to quarantine any close contacts (roommates, housemates, intimate partners and anyone they have been in contact for 15 minutes or longer at a distance of less than 6 feet). Wesleyan consulted several epidemiologists and public health experts including Dr. David Paltiel at the Yale School of Public Health and Dr. Rochelle Walensky, MD Chief of Infectious Disease at Mass General Hospital and Harvard Medical School as we arrived on our testing frequency and protocol. See their pre-published work on college campus testing here: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.07.06.20147702v1>

Recognizing that availability of tests in other states varies widely and in some cases is limited to those who have symptoms and/or a doctor's order, every student has been strongly encouraged but not required to get a COVID-19 test at home prior to coming to

campus. Students who have a negative test prior to coming to campus will be directed to upload a copy of that result to the CoVerify app that the University is using for Covid testing.

Students are also being asked to quarantine at home for the two weeks prior to travelling to campus. Upon arrival to campus, each student will be tested and required to follow state guidelines on quarantining. During this quarantine, students will be permitted to pick up a meal to go from dining services, but students will need to wear masks when outside their rooms and limit contact with others outside of their direct roommates.

Testing of faculty and staff who interact with students or their living spaces shortly before residential students return to campus:

Wesleyan will test faculty and staff who interact with students or their living spaces at the same frequency rate as the students. All faculty/staff who fall into this category will be tested immediately upon re-entry to campus and then regularly thereafter.

Wesleyan will conduct testing on a twice a week basis for all students and student facing faculty/staff who are working on campus until the University determines that any initial infection arriving on campus is contained and then the University may adjust to once a week testing.

Faculty/staff who are working remotely will not be required to be tested.

Protocol for collecting information about COVID-19 cases:

The University has contracted with CoVerified which has developed an app that all students, faculty and staff will use to report symptoms, schedule testing on campus and receive results of tests from the Broad Institute. Additionally this app will allow Health Services to understand what the level of testing compliance is, what the campus positivity rate is, what areas of the population become Covid+ and determine if additional steps need to be taken to implement a more strict quarantine by residence hall or other identified group on campus.

PART 3- PLAN FOR CONTAINMENT

Isolation space:

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they will be provided with supportive isolation until they are no longer contagious. The University will be using a combination of rooms at the Middletown Inn as well as University housing as isolation depending upon the situation. The student must remain in the isolation room until they receive a negative test (which may indicate the earlier test to have been false positive) and are medically cleared by Wesleyan's Health Services. Students in isolation will have daily contact from Health Center staff, they will attend classes virtually (if able), and meals will be delivered to them.

Isolation/Quarantine and Tracing protocol:

All students will self-quarantine upon arrival in their assigned residence after being tested. They must follow state guidelines concerning the length of quarantine. For any student determined to be positive for COVID-19 through testing, or based upon symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, that student (case) will be placed in isolation for 14 days or until a negative COVID-19 test has been received. The case will be interviewed, and close contacts would be identified as follows:

1. Intimate partners
2. Roommates, "pod mates"
3. Anyone who had been with the case for 15 minutes or longer and at a distance of < 6 feet within a 48 hour window prior to the case having symptoms and thereafter until the case was isolated

Contacts will be notified (the case's name would not be revealed) and may be asked to quarantine for 14 days (if they become ill, they will be treated as a case) in their assigned housing unit with their considered "family unit" those who live in close proximity such as roommates or suitemates.

Wesleyan Health Services has partnered with our IT department to create a system for monitoring isolation and quarantine timelines.

Additionally, using the CoVerify app, students faculty and staff will be asked to self-report close contacts to assist in the contact tracing process.

Liaison with regional hospitals and health care facilities. Declaration that the institution has been in contact with the key health care facilities in its area and has a liaison at each to assist if a surge occurs on campus and/or in the region.

Since the pandemic began, Wesleyan has participated in weekly meetings with the local health department, hospital, police and fire departments and relevant government officials to discuss the state of the pandemic and share information related to planning. The University is also in direct contact with a liaison at Middlesex Hospital regarding its status and capacity as the University plans its operations. The University has met with the Middletown Department of Public Health who is responsible for local contact tracing and has shared its plans for testing, isolating and containing COVID-19. We will continue to monitor local and state conditions to determine what actions the University may need to take.

PART 4 – PLAN FOR SHUTDOWN OF RESIDENTIAL OPERATIONS

Residential operations shutdown initiated by the institution if a serious outbreak occurs on campus:

Wesleyan University is returning to residential learning with a plan calling for students, faculty and staff to each take individual steps to protect the health of the entire Wesleyan community. Wearing masks, maintaining social distance, regular testing, isolating anyone who becomes ill are all important elements of this effort. Given the challenge of managing how a global impact could impact Wesleyan's residential operations must also include a plan to shutdown residential operations if necessitated by the conditions at Wesleyan, in Connecticut or in the world around us.

The first considerations for whether the University should consider shutting down campus operations are the same criteria that the State of Connecticut issued in early June to determine whether it would be safe to allow colleges to return to Residential Operations.

Connecticut Gating issues:

1. Steady decline in **hospitalizations**
2. An adequate number of **tests** available
3. Capacity for contact **tracing**
4. Statewide guidelines on physical distancing, **density** and wearing of facemasks
5. Adequate supplies of **PPE** and facemasks
6. Adequate hospital/health care **surge** capacity

Wesleyan will continue to monitor these indicators and, in consultation with local officials, will make determinations as to whether any of these areas indicate the need for Wesleyan to consider shutting down residential operations. Any one of these issues alone or the combination of two or more indicators may lead the University to make this decision.

Additionally, if the identified isolation space nears capacity the University will need to determine whether the rate of new infections in relation to the available isolation space necessitates beginning the process of shutting down residential operations.

As a result of Wesleyan's frequent testing, we will know the positivity rate among the campus population and where any positive cases are identified. If the positivity rate is increasing despite efforts to identify and isolate cases, the University may need to make the decision to shut down residential operations.

How will the residential shut down occur?

Students will be asked to develop their own plan regarding where they will go and how they will get there in the event the University needs to limit residential attendance for individual or groups of students at some point during the semester. Students will be asked to limit use of public transportation if possible and to pack and move their personal belongings out in the event of a shutdown of residential operations. If the student is not able to take personal belongings with them, they must make arrangements for them to be stored or shipped. Several

shipping and storing companies have been identified and relevant information is on the residential life website. These companies will be notified as soon as key decisions are made so they are prepared for an increased number of requests.

Students who are Covid+ and in isolation at the time of a shutdown will remain in isolation quarters until they have been cleared by Davison Health Center to leave campus.

Students who may not be able to leave campus will be able to petition to remain on campus in limited numbers as was the case in the spring semester but may be moved to other housing to reduce the number of buildings that remain open.

All students must return their keys to the Office of Residential Life prior to departing campus.

Plan for continuation of instruction if a shutdown occurs:

In the event of a shutdown of residential operations, Wesleyan intends to continue to deliver instruction online so that students can complete the semester from afar.