Update #7 to the Higher Education Report: Recommendations for Reopening Undergraduate Colleges and Universities
Additional Questions on Reopening Guidance
Issued by Mark Ojakian, State Lead for Reopening Higher Education
June 30, 2020

The information below has been gathered from state agency partners and others to address questions raised by the colleges and universities related to reopening plans.

1. Questions have been raised about the move in date for universities and whether social distancing guidelines could be maintained given the volume of incoming students. On June 24, 2020, I issued interim guidance on testing of residential students. In addition, that guidance allows residence halls to be repopulated beginning as early as August 14 to manage the process of moving in given social distancing guidelines. Future guidance will be issued to address the Governor's announcement about quarantine requirements related to travel to or from hot spots.

2. Following up on Update 3, questions have been raised about cleaning of suite bathrooms. I am updating the original guidance which called for suite bathrooms to be cleaned regularly by housekeeping staff to instead allow institutions to require students to clean their own facilities with proper training and supplies provided by the campus.

3. In consultation with the Department of Public Health, dining halls can align their reopen plans to match the state's protocols for restaurants observing social distancing and capacity limitations. Effective June 17, 2020 capacity limits on indoor dining are 50% and 100% for outside dining. Additionally, as the state issues guidance on the size of gatherings, colleges and universities can follow those standards. Current standards effective June 17, 2020 include limits on private indoor gatherings to 25 people and outside private gatherings limited to 100 people. These protocols change at different stages of reopening and institutions are encouraged to track this guidance and update their plans accordingly. The link to those sector rules can be found at https://business.ct.gov/Portal/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Sector-Rules-and-Certification-for-Reopen