

Update #8 to the Higher Education Report: Recommendations for Reopening Undergraduate Colleges and Universities
PHASE 3 PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR REOPENING UNDERGRADUATE RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
Issued by Mark Ojakian, State Lead for Reopening Higher Education
Revised July 17, 2020

The Report of the Higher Education Subcommittee submitted to the Governor on May 6, 2020 sets forth the guidance and requirements for colleges and universities to reopen undergraduate residential programs. See <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/News/20200506-Recommendations-to-Governor-Lamont-for-a-phased-reopening-of-colleges-and-universities.pdf?la=en> for the May 6 report and for the update memos that have been issued. Additional update memos have been issued during the summer as information is obtained.

Four plans are required to be submitted by each institution; these include:

- A plan for repopulating the campus (the reentry of students)
- A plan for monitoring the health of students, faculty and staff
- A plan for containing cases that develop
- A plan for shutdown of the campus if it becomes necessary.

The plans are to be submitted to the Department of Public Health (Thomas.St.Louis@ct.gov ; Av.Harris@ct.gov and Brie.Wolf@ct.gov), with a copy to Mark Ojakian, whom the Governor appointed to be the State's lead for the reopening of higher education in Connecticut (CSCU-President@ct.edu) The plans for fall reopening need to be submitted no later than three weeks before the intended arrival of students. Students may return to campus on or after August 14, 2020.

Schools planning to quarantine students per guidance in Update #9 may begin to do so starting August 3rd. Schools are asked to share their plan with Mark Ojakian (CSCU-President@ct.edu) no later than July 27th.

This memorandum outlines the requirements for each plan as interpreted by the Subcommittee.

Please note that the State continue make additional guidance that may modify this Framework. Please visit the Stay informed section of the state's ReOpen website <https://reopen.ct.gov> regularly for supplemental counsel.

REOPENING PLANS FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN PHASE 3—FALL 2020

Name of Institution:

COVID-19 Coordinator (Name and Title):

Email and cell phone:

Intended date of arrival of the first students (on or after August 10):

Intended date of classes starting:

Intended duration of the fall semester or quarter:

Date submitted:

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

Classrooms: Declaration that 6-feet of physical spacing has been achieved

Some limited commentary should be included to indicate how this was achieved (e.g., splitting the class into multiple sections, converting non-classrooms into instructional spaces, greater use of evenings, weekends or online instruction, reduction of students on campus)

Where six foot spacing is not possible, i.e. for clinical training or workforce development programs, please describe your plans.

Note: some institutions may want to provide guidance on the flow of students in and out of classrooms at peak times in order to achieve physical distancing.

Dining Halls: Declaration that 6-feet of physical spacing has been achieved and that the State's restaurant guidelines and capacity limits have been achieved (e.g., single use condiments, cleaning of surfaces after every diner). **See Update #7 for additional guidance.**

Some limited commentary about how this was achieved (e.g., two shifts for each meal; use of new spaces as spill-over dining halls; more grab-and-go meals; outdoor dining; limited capacity indoor dining)

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

Some limited commentary on bringing athletes back to campus, training and practice protocols, and managing safety concerns in competitions (if planned).

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

Some limited commentary about how each is being achieved.

Residence Halls:

Declaration:

1. that the guidelines for **residence hall/dormitory density** are being followed, which allow, but do not require, that roommates and suitemates can be treated as a family unit; (See Appendix II of the ReOpening Report)
2. that six-foot physical spacing is being preserved with other residence hall building occupants (beyond the room/suite);
3. that the institution is allocating bedrooms (in the residential halls or elsewhere) to accommodate students who must be isolated; and
4. about how the institution is accommodating those students who are at greater risk for complications from COVID-19.

Some limited commentary about how the institution has addressed these issues.

Declaration that the guidelines for **residence hall/dormitory bathrooms** are being followed. **See Updates #3, #5 and #7 for additional guidance.**

Some limited commentary about how this is being achieved.

Orientation/Arrival: Declaration that the institution is organizing orientation and the return of students to maintain 6-foot physical distancing.

Some limited commentary about how this is being planned

Personal protective equipment: Masks: Declaration that all faculty, staff and students have been informed to wear masks.

Some limited commentary about whether and how these groups will be supplied masks or required to provide their own with some backup inventory maintained by the institution. Some commentary about how the institutions will respond to non-compliance (e.g., will students be prohibited from entering classrooms if they don't have masks?)

Other PPE requirements: Declaration that special populations on campus (e.g., health care workers, kitchen or custodial staff) will follow any special PPE requirements mandated more generally for those populations.

Some limited commentary about how each is being achieved.

Disinfection: Declaration that (i) hand sanitizers are available at entrances to all buildings, classrooms and dining halls, (ii) disposable wipes or cleaning solutions are available in all bathrooms, classrooms and other shared facilities (e.g., copy machines, coffee stations) for wiping down surfaces, (iii) students, faculty and staff are reminded to wash hands frequently, and (iv) public, corridor and office spaces and their bathrooms are cleaned in accordance with the State's general guidelines for businesses. **See Update #5 for additional guidance.**

Some limited commentary about how each is being achieved.

Travel: Declaration that students, faculty and staff have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel domestically, particularly to states deemed “hot spots” and internationally. ***This counsel will be altered as conditions warrant.***

Some limited commentary about how this is being communicated.

Staffing: Declaration that faculty, students and staff have been explicitly instructed not to come to work or leave their residence hall rooms if they are experiencing COVID-like symptoms. Also a Declaration about what advice, if any, the institution is giving to those who have higher likelihood of serious illness from COVID-19.

Some limited commentary on how this is being communicated.

Access to campus: Declaration of the institution’s plans for visitors to the campus. The ReOpen report suggests restricting the time, place and manner of admitting visitors onto campus to limit the transmission of the virus.

Some limited commentary on how this is being achieved.

Contracted staff are expected to abide by the same requirements/expectations as employees.

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

Testing of students in residential institutions for the COVID-19 virus: Declaration that the institution will conduct testing per the state’s public health guidelines. ***See Update #6 and Update #9 for specific guidance.***

It is imperative that each institution adjusts their testing protocol to match the latest guidance from the state which is updated regularly to address new public health concerns.

Commentary about how these plans will be implemented.

Ongoing testing of students for the COVID-19 virus : Declaration of the institution’s plan to conduct ongoing testing, in compliance with state public health guidance.

Commentary on how this is being achieved including description of testing partnership if provided by third party and testing of symptomatic residential students and residence hall staff. Additionally details should be provided on target populations such as athletes and athletic staff who may be tested more regularly.

Community colleges and other non-residential institutions with only commuting students are not required to test students. However, commuter colleges should formalize relationships with local departments of public health to support referrals for testing and contact tracing.

Some limited commentary about how these plans will be implemented.

Appointment of a COVID-19 Coordinator: Declaration of who the Coordinator is and that he or she will (i) be the liaison with the coordinators at the other colleges and universities who will convene periodically during the fall (and beyond if needed) and (ii) providing reporting to external stakeholders when requested.

Some limited commentary on how this is being achieved.

Protocol for collecting information about COVID-19 cases: Declaration that the institution has developed a protocol indicating that faculty, students and staff have been asked to inform immediately the campus health service (or a designated administrator) that they are experiencing possible COVID-19 symptoms, as well as a protocol for testing symptomatic students. (For students, faculty, or staff using an external health care provider, the institution should request that they inform a designated administrator if they test positive.)

Commentary about this protocol, which will help the institution respond to any “hot spots” of infection on campus and to undertake the contact tracing outlined in Part 3. Institutions may consider using an app to facilitate daily reporting of symptoms.

PART 3- PLAN FOR CONTAINMENT

Isolation space: Declaration that the institution has designated rooms and feeding arrangements for students who test positive and must be isolated. ***See Update #5 for additional guidance.***

Some limited commentary about where and how much isolation space has been designated.

Isolation protocol: Declaration that when a case of infection is detected, the institution will isolate the infected students for 14 days, trace contacts, quarantine all roommates and suitemates and consider quarantining others with close contact.

Some limited commentary on how this is being achieved.

Medical care for those isolated: Declaration of how the institution intends to provide medical care for infected students.

Some limited commentary on how this is being achieved. Daily telemedicine calls might be one part of monitoring.

Quarantine protocol: Declaration that the institution intends to quarantine students who are judged to require it and has designated rooms and feeding arrangements for students.

Some limited commentary on how this is being achieved. How the institution intends to quarantine (roommates, suitemates, and other close contacts?), and where (in a separate facility, or allowing roommates and suitemates to remain together if their shared bathroom is not used by others).

Contact tracing. Declaration of how the institution intends to conduct contact tracing. *See Update #1 for additional information.*

Some limited commentary on how this will be achieved. Institutions may prefer to train staff to serve as contact tracers, or ask local departments of public health for assistance, or provide their students, faculty, and staff with one of the several apps.

Commuter schools are encouraged to have system in place to document on campus activity to support contact tracing by the local health departments if needed.

Some limited commentary on how these plans will be implemented.

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.

Some limited commentary on how these plans will be achieved.

PART 4 – PLAN FOR SHUTDOWN

Shutdown initiated by the institution if a serious outbreak occurs on campus: Declaration of the protocol for an orderly shutdown if a serious outbreak occurs on campus that the institution and/or relevant state or local authorities conclude requires shutdown. This may warrant different treatment of local students and those who need to travel to other states or countries.

"The best practice according to the Public Health Committee of Reopen Connecticut is for the institution upon shutdown to keep on campus all persons with COVID-19 who are in isolation until they have been cleared to discontinue isolation according to CDC (or the Institution's) guidelines and also keep on campus those who are being quarantined until their quarantine period expires, according to CDC guidelines. This avoids sending students home when they can be contagious and when many will be using public transportation to travel."

Some limited commentary on how these plans will be implemented.

Shutdown of the State: Declaration that the institution will follow the instructions of the Governor if he determines that a statewide shutdown is again required.

Some limited commentary on how these plans will be implemented.

Plan for continuation of instruction if a shutdown occurs: Declaration about whether the institution would intend to continue instruction online if a shutdown occurs.

Some limited commentary how these plans will be implemented. Note that if the gating condition for reduction in the prevalence of the virus is not met this summer, the opening of the semester could be delayed; this, too, would require institutions to determine whether to start school online.

For questions, contact President Mark Ojakian at CSCU-President@ct.edu