

Preparing Students & Faculty

A Checklist for Healthier Learning Environments

Community

- Require temperature checks upon entering the building
- Use of masks by students and staff when social distancing not possible
- Stagger in-person days with eLearning days to reduce density
- Develop a plan for helping students cope emotionally as well as physically
- Openly discuss mental health and offer strategies for managing anxiety and stress
- Establish Meditation or Reflection spaces for students or staff to visit when feeling overwhelmed
- Recognize that many students will need substantial review or remediation once back in the classroom and plan for it
- Reduce financial concerns by allowing students to defer tuition payments for 1-2 years for higher education and private schools

Space

- Arrange rooms to allow 6' physical distancing
- Utilize non-traditional spaces such as corridors, libraries, or gymnasiums for additional classroom space
- Stagger transition periods or re-work paths of travel for students and staff to minimize contact during transition periods
- Provide visual aids for distancing such as placing tape on the floor or removing chairs
- Provide deep cleaning of spaces before re-opening. Once open, thoroughly clean each night, and disinfect high contact surfaces twice daily
- Consider using screens, mobile furniture, study carrels, or other solutions to support flexibility and distancing
- Ensure all indoor spaces are well ventilated; consider a high-performance air filtration system
- Install a Hygiene Station inside each room to provide access to hand sanitizer, tissues, trash, etc.
- Hold classes outdoors when possible; use the entire campus to support academic practices and activities
- Establish multiple Health Clinics/ Nurse's Offices to maintain distancing and establish space for temporary quarantine areas
- Use water bottle re-fill stations vs. drinking fountains
- Install touchless restroom fixtures
- Provide Personal Protection Equipment for students and staff

Action

- Develop or update a Contingency Plan for possible future outbreaks; conduct an evaluation of processes and communication during the recent pandemic
- Use Blended Learning; a blending of online work with on-campus work
- For schools, serve lunch within the classroom
- Rotate teachers from room to room instead of students
- Limit or eliminate the sharing of materials
- Develop lesson plans that include healthy practices for not spreading germs
- Ensure students and staff can recognize symptoms of COVID-19
- Move individuals displaying symptoms into quarantine spaces
- Establish stringent policies for admitting visitors or suppliers
- Utilize clear, concise, and friendly visual signage to help individuals understand expectations