

Campus Public Health Metrics for Monitoring and/Adjusting University Operations (On-Campus-Remote)



Framingham
State University

The COVID Oversight Team has developed guidance, which has been informed by evidence-based science and/or expert opinions. This guidance covers most situations and will be revised as our understanding of COVID-19 and community public health information changes. This guidance is intended to monitor the spread of the disease on campus in our community but cannot eliminate all risk.

Overview

What triggers/parameters (numbers, trends or outcomes) will result in a discussion of movement to remote operations, physical closure, partial physical closure or other on-campus response?

In drafting these guidelines, a key resource is the [American College Health Association's \(ACHA\) Considerations for Reopening Institutions of Higher Education in the COVID-19 Era](#).

- The high touch, highly interactive, mobile, densely populated living and learning environment typical of most campuses is the exemplar of a congregate setting with multiple risk factors for ready transmission of COVID-19. Therefore, meticulous adherence to public health practices including hand hygiene, physical distancing, cough/sneeze etiquette, frequent disinfection of common and high traffic areas, symptom assessment, temperature checks and wearing face coverings in public is the campus' new normal. This is widely communicated to students, employees and all campus visitors in a consistent and ongoing fashion.

Metrics for Consideration

The COVID Campus Analytics Team (CCAT) and the Massachusetts and local Departments of Public Health (DPH) will analyze available data based on the parameters in this document.

Campus Considerations

- Employee absenteeism with focus on critical operational areas defined herein that allow for the safe operation of the occupied campus.
 - Acknowledge possible under-reporting by employees and students
 - Critical areas include but are not limited to dining, facilities maintenance, police and security, health center staffing, residence life.
- Increases in percent positives in testing
 - Symptomatic and surveillance
 - Overall rate, sustained week-to-week increases
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages impacting ability to test and care for COVID-19 suspected or positive cases
- Inability to adequately test for COVID-19 due to supply chain issues
- Clusters
 - If the activity from clusters overwhelms our ability to quarantine/isolate and contact trace
 - Number, location and type of cluster (cluster in a single hall versus multiple, widespread)
- Number of students in isolation on campus
- Number of students in quarantine on campus

- Number/percentage of students presenting to the Health Center with possible COVID-19 symptoms (with comparison to previous years at the same time)
- Increasing cases of community transmission (no known source) in student population
- FSU community member death

Community Considerations

- Significant, applicable action by the governor or other public official
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts data: Number of new daily documented cases, percent positive rate/with flat or increasing volume of tests.
- City of Framingham data: number of new daily cases, percent positive rate, hotel capacity
- Metrowest Medical Center capacity: number/percentage of emergency room visits for influenza-like and COVID- 19-like symptoms, percentage of hospital and ICU beds filled
- Percentage of influenza-like illness in Metrowest and the state as measured by ILI-NET, compared with previous years
- Testing and contact tracing capacity in Framingham and the Commonwealth
- Trends among similarly situated MA public and private universities

The COVID Campus Analytics Team (CCAT) will keep the COVID Oversight Team updated on these metrics and the COVID Oversight Team will involve additional key stakeholders including the President who may inform decisions as appropriate.

Possible Actions

- Advanced or heightened social distancing, environmental cleaning
- Temporary individual class suspension, building and facility closure to clean/disinfect/contact trace in consultation with local health officials
- Reduced occupancy
 - Singles only housing (several students are already placed in singles)
 - Restrict to one or more residence halls
- Closure of residence halls
 - May need to shelter students in place for a period of time until people are able to safely depart
 - Plan for students to leave or remove their belongings at the time of departure
 - Travel
 - May worsen the situation by sending students to their home communities
 - Travel restrictions will be more difficult and it may take longer to coordinate
 - Student departures will need to be scheduled to support social distancing and potential travel limitations
 - Arrangements will need to be made for homeless and housing compromised students
- On-campus closure; full transition to remote learning

Guidance Agencies:

From the outset of the COVID-19 worldwide outbreak, the University has relied upon and will continue to receive support from essential community partners. Services, information and assistance are provided to FSU by the following national and international organizations: American College Health Association(ACHA); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); National Institutes of Health (NIH);Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); U.S. Department of Education (DOE);

Federal, Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); United States Department of State (DOS); Equal Employment, Opportunity Commission (EEOC); and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Assisting with state, local and regional services and information, that inform our daily work are:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH); Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA); Executive Office of Education (EOE); Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE); and the City of Framingham Board of Health.